



OAK KNOLL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27, 2025

Welcome to worship at Oak Knoll!
† **Congregation please stand as able**

*Welcome to our Thanksgiving Service of Gratitude! We gather today as one body,
In harmony with one another and all of creation as a reflection of God's gift of oneness
to us all. Through this we see our mutual interdependence and that our solitude is
bound within a multitude.*

*By attending in-person worship you are consenting to being part of the
livestream broadcast.*

*At Oak Knoll **we welcome and encourage children in worship.** We have a pray-
ground up front and welcome children and parents to use this space to participate in wor-
ship together. We also have a play area in Fellowship Hall where you can hear the ser-
vice if your child needs a break from the sanctuary worship space.*

GATHERING MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth, arr. James Koerts

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

☐ Lord of bounty and blessing,

☑ we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy Name. Bless each of us here, that we may truly become blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

† OPENING HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal 689

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

📖 The Lord be with you. 📖 **And also with you.**

📖 Let us pray together. God of the table,

📖 Meet us as we gather. As we recline at the table, help us to make space to delight in the sacred community we've been given. For the time we're here, let us look up and truly see one another's faces. Protect the comedy of us – the jokes, the playfulness, every smirk or raised eyebrow. As laughter rings out from us – chairs rocked back, tears in our eyes, gasping for breath – pause time. Pause time and allow the sacredness of the moment to be realized. Remind us that it's not laughter alone that is the cure, but laughter shared – joy in community, saving out people again and again. Keep us from becoming too serious. Let our children watch us delight in each other, tease each other, embrace each other. And may this table be the site of memory, passed down from generation to generation, that our children would learn the sound of their own laughter in us. Right here. Amen.

PREACHING TEXT

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

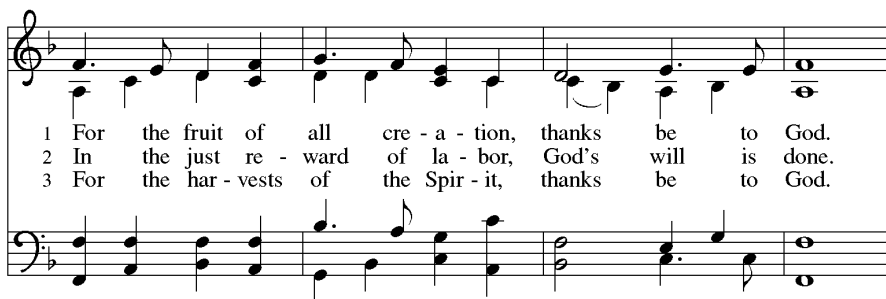
²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

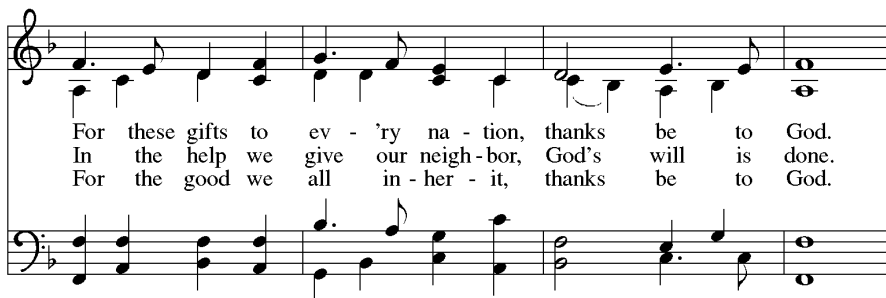
📖 Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

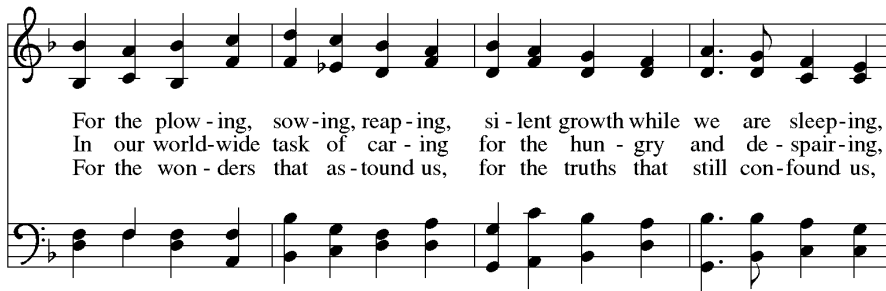
Vicar Chantal Branker



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

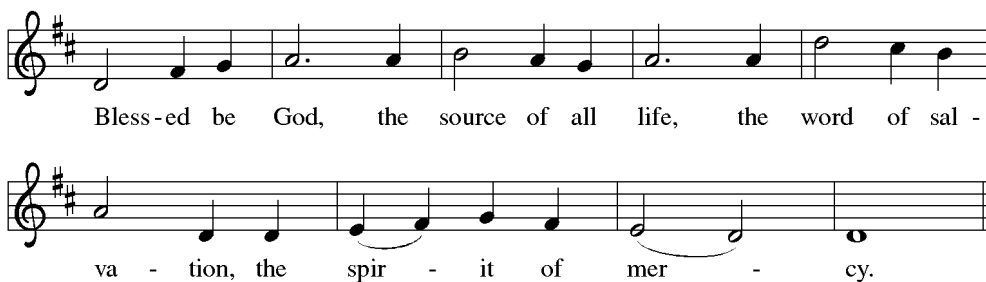
† THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

☐ Let us give thanks for all that we have; for every good and perfect gift is from God.

A brief silence. After each petition:

☐ We pray to you, Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life,

Red Hymnal 210



Text: *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship 3
Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
Text © 2002 and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

† SHARING OF THE PEACE

☐ The Peace of the Lord be with you all. And also with you.



OFFERING

Thank you for supporting our ministry together.

For the Beauty of the Earth, Deb Weir and Jan Mostrom

Please take time this week to give online, mail in, or give by text at 855.389.3312. Complete directions are on the Church website under the 'give' tab.

Sometimes the Offering is viewed as a break in the service, a chance for the congregation to do some "fundraising". Actually, the offering is an act of worship. As we give our offering, we symbolically give ourselves to God. Our money is our servanthood in spendable pieces.

† OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All Are Welcome

Red Hymnal 641, stanza 3

3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place." The word "Refrain" is written above the final line of the score.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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† OFFERTORY PRAYER

L Let us pray together. Gracious God,

G God, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving. Bless the gifts we offer to you. May these gifts bring hope, peace, gratitude, and grace in this season of Harvest Thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

L We join our hearts and voices together in praying as Jesus taught his disciples.

G Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

† BENEDICTION

L Beloved of God, place your whole trust in God's absolute abundant love. Feel the powerful presence of God in your life and know that God's blessings are with you. Go in peace, and may God's peace always be with you.

G Amen.



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

Music © 1989 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

† DISMISSAL

📖 Go in peace, Give thanks for all the good in our lives. 📖 **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God, arr. Gail Smith

Thanksgiving Eve Pie

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for fellowship and pie.

Maynards Day is December 1st - All sales go to ICA

Join us for a fun and festive way to kick off the holiday season, with 100% of gross sales going directly back to ICA Food Shelf. Call now to make your reservation at 952.470.1800.

Maynards Restaurant, 685 Excelsior Boulevard, Excelsior, MN, 55331

Order Christmas Poinsettias

We will be taking Christmas poinsettia orders to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve now through **December 7th**. Each order is \$20 and proceeds go to Oak Knoll's youth ministry. Sign up online at oklutheran.org/serve or find the paper signup at the welcome desk in the Narthex. You may pay online at oklutheran.org/sponsor or by check. You are welcome to take home your order following our second Christmas Eve worship service.

Senior Event

Please join us for treats and social time followed by a nostalgic and fun presentation on "Christmas Moments to Remember" by Mike Henry on **Thursday, December 4th at 10:00am**. Please RSVP at the Welcome Desk or by calling the Church Office at 952.546.5433. The registrations cost of \$5 may be paid in person at the event or [online](http://oklutheran.org/give-online) at oklutheran.org/give-online.



ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Please join us for Advent worship services, Wednesdays, December 3, 10, & 17 at 6:30pm. These services will be a candle lit time of reflection and preparation for the season. **Soup supper is served from 5:45pm - 6:15pm.**

Sign up to serve at one of our Advent Soup Suppers online at oklutheran.org/serve or at the welcome desk!



Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 6th

Join us for a fun and delicious neighborhood meal with Santa on **December 6th from 9:30-11am**. Please bring your own camera to take a photo with Santa. There will also be plenty of holiday crafts for families to work on! As always, this meal will be free for all. Gluten friendly and vegetarian options will be available.

Sign up to volunteer at Breakfast with Santa at the Welcome Desk or at oklutheran.org/serve, or sponsor the event at oklutheran.org/sponsor. Your sponsorship funds will help us pay for food, drinks, activities, and outreach for this fun event. Please consider donating what you can, or sponsoring five meals for \$35. Thank you for supporting this community event!

Women of Song Concert

The choir, Women of Song, under the direction of Patricia Connors, will present "Give My Heart," a concert of Advent and Christmas music, here at **Oak Knoll on Saturday, December 6, at 7 pm**. The 50-voice choir, grateful to have found a home at Oak Knoll, invites the community to celebrate the season with them. No tickets are required. A free will offering will be collected.



Youth Christmas Party – December 14, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

All confirmation and high school youth are invited to the annual Christmas party. Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange and a dish to share. [Sign up now.](#)

Support ICA Food Shelf

Right now, our neighbors are facing hardship and hunger with cuts to SNAP and other supports. Your gifts and donations can make all the difference!

How you can help:

- Donate food: Your non-perishable food items stock our shelves and provide direct relief. See our most-needed items list at icafoodshelf.org/donate-food. Please drop off all food donations in the Narthex.
- Donate funds: ICA can turn every \$1 you donate into \$3 worth of food from food banks. Your financial gift provides more healthy, fresh options like milk and produce. Donate securely online at icafoodshelf.org/donate or by check in the Oak Knoll offering plate.





Plymouth Christian Youth Center is our Ministry Partner for November: Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) is a voluntary health, education, and welfare organization that was founded in 1954 to serve children and youth in the inner city of Minneapolis. Their mission is to enrich the skills, prospects, and spirit of North Minneapolis area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities.

Your donations go toward paid internships and job training opportunities, free year-round academic and social-emotional enrichment of K-5 scholars, and supporting middle school youth through the Capri stage performances.

Learn more about PCYC at <https://pcyc-mpls.org/about-pcyc/> or donate by giving to Oak Knoll's Ministry Partner of the Month at <oklutheran.org/give-online> or in person.

PCYC Holiday Gift Drive

Over 3,000 gifts and 200 volunteers are needed to make the holidays brighter for 600 North Minneapolis youth who will shop for loved ones at the PCYC Gift Sale Store in the Capri. The annual gift sale will be on Saturday, December 13th.



Oak Knoll will be collecting unwrapped gifts for the PCYC Christmas Gift Sale now through November 30th.

Purchased gifts can be dropped off in the Narthex. You may also find a suggested shopping list in the Narthex. They are in need of NEW items, valued at \$10-25. Please purchase gifts for all ages. Children and youth will be shopping for infants, elementary and teenage siblings, and parents and grandparents. Gifts are especially needed for teenagers and adults. They are grateful for monetary donations to shop for gifts that are needed.

You may also participate through volunteering for the gift sale or donating towards the cause. Find details at pcyc-mpls.org/gift-sale-2025/.



Oak Knoll Lutheran Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
Wednesday, December 24:
2:00pm & 4:00pm



Oak Knoll Online Giving

You can go directly to Oak Knoll's Online Giving page through <http://oklutheran.org/give> and click on the 'Give' button on the top right of the page.



Oak Knoll Lutheran Church

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PASTORAL STAFF

Jay Rudi, *Senior Pastor*
Michele Abbott, *Pastor*
Chantal Branker, *Vicar*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Brooke Ruhlin, *Finance & Facility Manager*
Karla Stokke, *Office Administrator*
Meg Gumbiner, *Communications Coordinator*

PROGRAM STAFF

Matt Cerar, *Music Director*
Parker Degerness, *Music Minister*
Christina Black, *Director of Children, Youth & Family*
Stephen Murray, *Streaming Director*

PRESCHOOL Kathryn Glorvick, Director

HOSPITALITY COORDINATORS Ezra Black, Ivy Black, Sadie Longo, Sonja Leppa, Sylvi Leppa, River Vickerman

MINISTERS All members & guests of Oak Knoll

Ushers: Sean, Janelle & Zoe Weiser

