



Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Smithtown, New York 11787

www.standrewsofsmithtown.org

Nicholas Suminski, Organist and Music Director

Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

✝ December 24, 2023

4:30pm

GATHERING

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The assembly stands as they are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, who blesses us with a Savior to be with us always, our Emmanuel - God with us - through whom we receive the promise of your forgiveness, redemption and love.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #283 O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1 and 3

**1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain***

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN #289 Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1 and 3

**1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

2The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing vs. 1

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

***GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14 [15-20]**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN #270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing vs. 3

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

MESSAGE AND BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

HYMN OF THE DAY #277 Away in a Manger

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Bring peace to Ukraine, the Middle East, and all the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness especially Laura, Jennifer, Lucy, Rachel, and Mary Ellen; those serving in the military, all on the prayer list; all people affected by COVID-19, for the victims of the ongoing violence in Ukraine and the Middle East, and those we name before you now (pause). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Pastor) Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to make your contributions in support of the ministries of Saint Andrew's by mail or by visiting our website to set up online giving.

OFFERING HYMN #296 What Child Is This vs. 1 and 3

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel, one God, now and forever
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

COMMUNION HYMN #300 The First Noel vs. 1-3

**1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

COMMUNION HYMN #269 Once in Royal David's City vs. 1,2, and 4

**1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

COMMUNION HYMN #281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

**1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

This afternoon we welcome Pastor Bruce Kaifler.

Christmas Services

December 24th

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

9:00 pm The Christ Mass with Holy Communion

December 25th

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Services

December 31st

St Thomas of Canterbury, Smithtown

9:00 am New Year's Eve Service

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Port Jefferson Station

8:30 am, 10:30 am & 7:30 pm New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion

***Please note there will be no services on Sunday, 12/31 at St. Andrew's.**

December is St. Andrews month for volunteering at the Smithtown Food

Pantry! Volunteers are still needed Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-12:30pm. Please contact Julie Francis at 303-898-2511 with any questions.

*COVID vaccinations are required to volunteer.

The food pantry is currently in need of basic non-perishable foods, such as:

Laundry detergent, cereal, peanut butter, mac and cheese, tomato sauce, tuna fish, canned chicken. We thank you for any donations.

Community Outreach and Ministry St. Andrew's is collecting the following items to support Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandanch:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, small hard candy (ex. Jolly Ranchers), travel size lotion, sanitizer, maxi pads individually wrapped tampons, travel size shaving cream, razors wrapped, men and women deodorant, bandaids, lip balm, packs of tissues.

Please bring these items to the office or to the collection box located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your donations!

Pastor Paul Downing of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Port Jefferson Station serves as our coverage pastor.

He can be reached anytime for pastoral care and emergencies at cell# 347-423-3623. If he is unable to answer, please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible. He can also be reached by email at pastorpauldowning@yahoo.com.

Questions about meetings and day to day activities at St. Andrew's should still be directed to the office at 631.265.2288 or info@standrewsofsmithtown.org.

Pastor Paul Downing invites you to join him and the St. Paul's community for weekly Bible Study and/or Prayer Group.

Bible Study : 9:30am Wednesday mornings on Zoom (meeting ID 977-887-967)

Bible Study : 10:30am Wednesday mornings In Person at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Jefferson Station

Prayer Group: 10:30am Friday mornings In Person and via Zoom (meeting ID 800-555-016) at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Poinsettia Flowers

Many thanks to all who contributed poinsettias to beautify our altar for Christmas

In thanksgiving of our children by Art & Helen Fortin

In thanksgiving of our grandchildren by Art & Helen Fortin

In memory of our parents by Art & Helen Fortin

In memory of Marion & Carl Schwabe by Priscilla & Don Schwabe

In memory of Mary & Kenneth Cooke by Priscilla & Don Schwabe

In celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary by Priscilla & Don Schwabe

In memory of Mildred Gustavsen by Grant and Gary Jr. Gustavsen

In memory of Gus Gustavsen by Grant & Gary Jr. Gustavsen

In memory of Emma Doxsee by Gary & Laura Gustavsen

In honor of our grandchildren Henry, Camryn and Kyra, Lorelei and Crosby by Gary & Laura Gustavsen

In memory of Caroline & Richard Mengert by Carolyn & Ken Gableman

In memory of the Acker and Mathieson Families by Leslee & Steve Mathieson

In memory of Hermann Hahn by Martha Hahn & family

In memory of Chris, Sal & Marguerite Raineri by the Raineri family

In memory of Jack Schoen by the Raineri family

In memory of Herbert Ahrens by the Raineri family
 In celebration of our grandchildren, Leah, Johnny and Callen by John and Lynn Hewitt
 In memory of Ethel & Herbert Hendrickson by Ronald Hendrickson
 In memory of our dear friend Herbert Ahrens by Joyce & George Rilke
 In memory of Oma & Opa Keil by the Ahrens family
 In memory of my husband, Herbert Ahrens by Anita Ahrens
 In memory of Elsie & Walter Dorer, Mom & Dad by Viola Giovinco
 In memory of Mom & Dad Deluca, Dad G, Nanny & Poppop by Liz, Al & Brian
 In memory of all our departed relatives By Lydia & Bill Moser
 In thanksgiving for our sons Adam & Eric, our daughter in law Holly, grandchildren
 Megan, Bridget & Tommy by Dotty & Jim Clavell
 In memory of our parents Celia & Tony Clavell, Elizabeth & Gottlieb Arthofer by Dotty & Jim Clavell
 In memory of Anna & Mary Gross by Dotty & Jim Clavell
 In memory of Joann Drew Johnson, Archie & Thelma Drew, Tim Council by Dotty & Jim Clavell
 In memory of my cousin Agnes Tessitore and Robert Arthofer by Dotty Clavell
 In memory of Anita Grube, Hildegard Henning, Hermann Hahn and Leslie Budke by Dotty & Jim Clavell
 In memory of my husband Roland and loved ones by Violet Lahann
 In memory of our parents Archie & Thelma Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families
 In memory of our sisters & brother Karin Elizabeth, Joanne (nee Drew) Johnson &
 Kenneth Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families
 In memory of our grandparents, William & Margaret Cooper and Archer & Ada Drew by
 the Drew, McKittrick & Council families
 In memory of our brother & sister-in-law Charles (Tim) Council & Maria Drew by the
 Drew, McKittrick & Council families
 In celebration of our family by Grete Kraus & Jane Samuelson
 In memory of Penny Kraus by Grete Kraus & Jane Samuelson
 In memory of Leo Fisco Jr. by Stephanie Roehrig

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:**

Pat Gasparo [requested by Meystrik family]
 Mary Ellen Tiffany, John Grube, Richard Klouda, Teresa Caliguri [requested by the Klouda Family]
 Eddie Hope [requested by Jane and Paul DeRosa]
 Noam Gilbert Lieberman [requested by Eve Overton]
 Jeff Taylor [requested by Fred Swanson]
 Richard Angelo, Rocky Cinque [requested by Marianne Spagna]
 Lucy Harris and her family, Sara Larson [requested by the Francis family]
 Jeff Hanson, Jennifer Meisenkothen, Rachel Boccio Chris Kelly, John Sullivan [requested by Dorothy & Jim
 Clavell]
 Carolyn Bennett [requested Jill Spage]
 Arthur Schaeffler [requested by the Poulos Family]
 Mary Ellen Sconzo [requested by Gabrielle Sconzo]
 Pam Provetto [requested by Joe & Margie Costello]
 Brett D, Bill Michalski, father in law of Jessica Davis Michalski [requested by Cindy Davis]
 Robert & Pat Richards [requested by Mary Fjellstad]
 Bob Blagriff, Bill Davey [requested by Tom & Pat Pernice]
 Barbara McCanlis, Patty DeGoveia [requested by Jill Breimann]
 Ellen Bell [requested by Dorothy Graf]
 Gavin Lahann [requested by Grandmother Violet Lahann]
 Emilie Diehl [requested by daughters Cyndie & Kathy]
 Laura Hicks, Andrew Madarasz, Gerard Tuohy [requested by Leslee & Steve Mathieson]
 Alex Hegarty, Bob Widmer, Carmine Colasanto, Richard & George Mengert [requested by Carolyn
 Gabelman]
 Tracey Parisi, Margo Naranjo, John Hochuli [requested by Barbara English]
 Marilyn Havighorst [requested by Martha Hahn]
 Kerri Swanson [requested by Linda & Jud Taylor]

Andy Hazin & the Hazin family, Ilse Gunther [requested by the Hoffman family]
David Travis [requested by Richard Travis]
The family of Elaine Robinson [requested by Deborah Cella]
Viola Giovinco [requested by Liz DeLuca]

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:

Sgt Eric Hodosky
Major Lenore Livingston [daughter of Helen & Art Fortin]
Corporal August Detting
Major William Fortin

(Please advise the office of any updates in your prayer requests.)

