Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Smithtown, New York 11787



Info@standrewsofsmithtown.org Nicholas Suminski, Organist and Music Director

> Second Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion December 10, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

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 holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

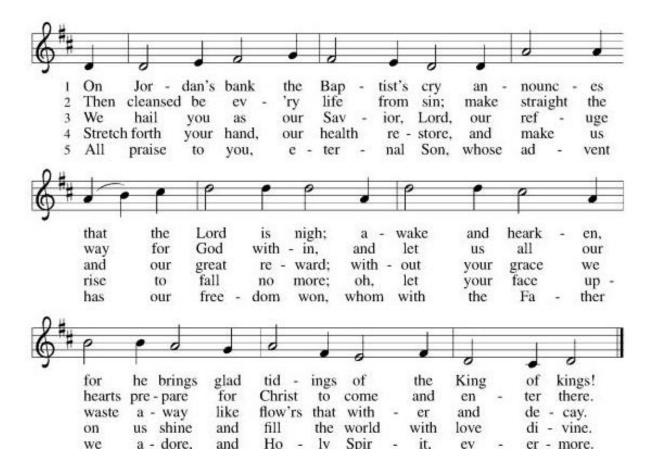
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 SONG # 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

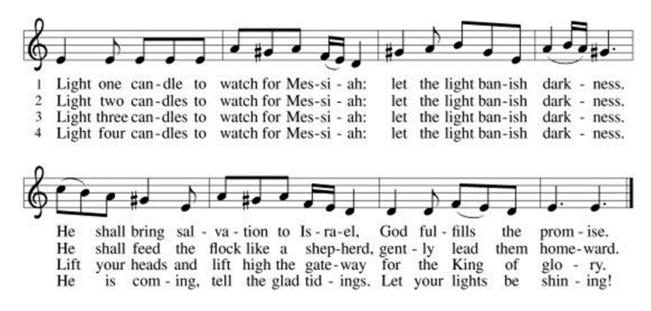


GREETING

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# 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 2 only)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you! And also with you!

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. **Amen.**

ANTHEM (CHOIR)

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your ¹ land, O Lord; you have restored the good for- I tune of Jacob. ²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people and blotted out [|] all their sins. ⁸I will listen to what the Lord ¹ God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their I hearts to you. ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear you, that your glory may dwell | in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹ met together: righteousness and peace have I kissed each other. ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up [|] from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven. ¹²The Lord will indeed [|] grant prosperity, and our land will I vield its increase. ¹³Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the Lord and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter

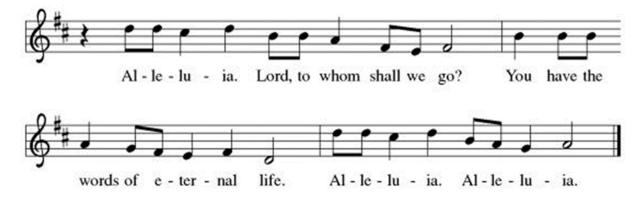
This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8 The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,""

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY # 255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness



NICENE CREED We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Bring peace to Ukraine, the Middle East and all the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments especially Pam, 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). Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

(*Pastor*) Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

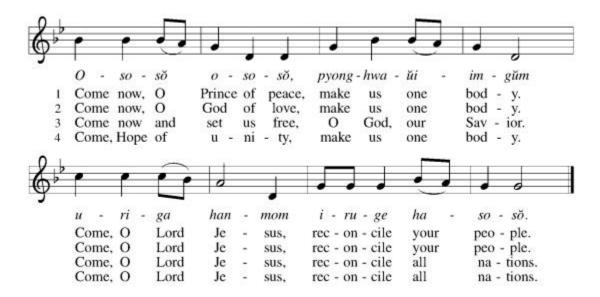
PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of Saint Andrew's, you may give in person, by mail or by visiting our website for online giving. Donations: <u>standrewsofsmithtown.org/donate</u>

OFFERTORY HYMN # 247 Come Now, O Prince of Peace



***OFFERING PRAYER**

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

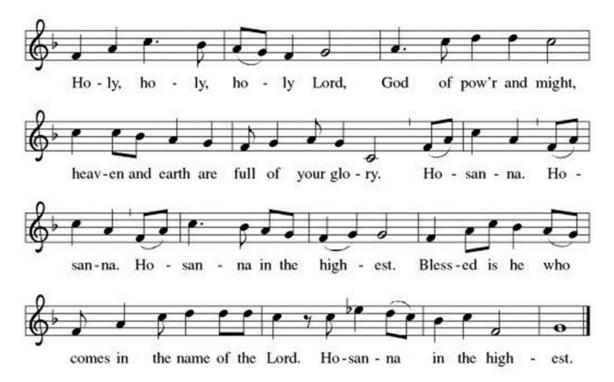
GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

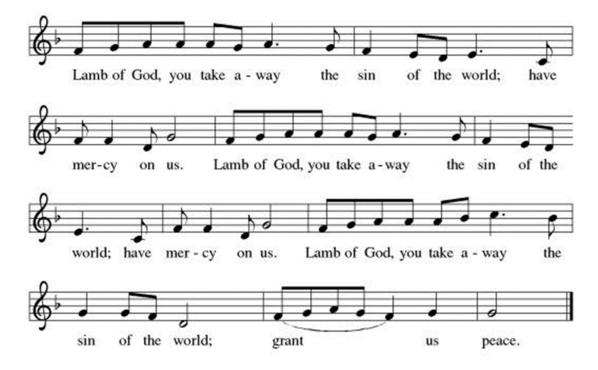
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

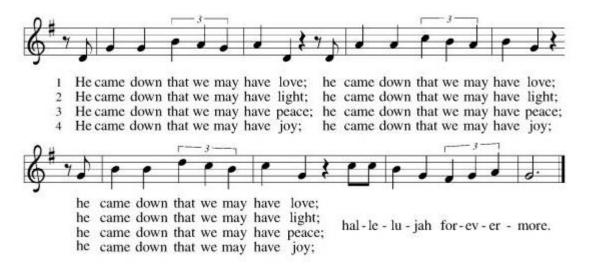
In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

LAMB OF GOD



Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMN # 253 He Came Down



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

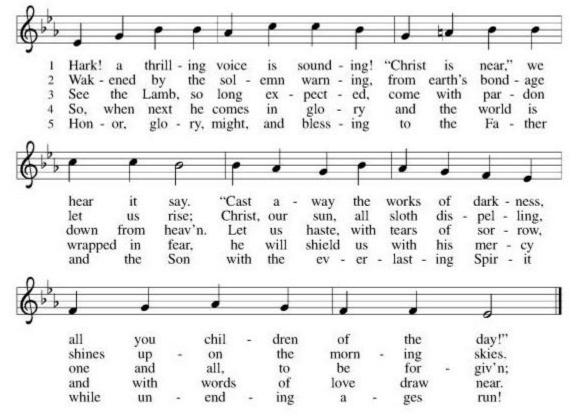
Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN # 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This morning we welcome Pastor Gary Schulz

LIGHTS OF LOVE-Order Christmas angels in the narthex Sundays, through December 10th. One angel is \$15, two for \$25.

Poinsettia Plant Sale – Order forms in the narthex Sundays, through December 15th.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Audrey Reumann by The Reumann family.

Midweek Advent Services

St. Thomas of Canterbury

Contemplative Night Prayer for Advent (Prayers for Hope, Peace, Love and Joy)

Wednesdays at 7 pm, December 13th & 20th (December 20th will be our yearly Blue Christmas Liturgy of Loss & Remembrance.)

90 Edgewater Ave. Smithtown, NY 11787 Phone 631-265-4520

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm December $13^{\rm th}$ & $20^{\rm th}$ Advent Dinner services with Holy Communion

309 Patchogue Road, Port Jefferson Station NY 11776 Phone 631-473-2236

Christmas Services

December 24th St. Andrew's Lutheran Church 4:30 pm Family Worship 10:00 pm The Christ Mass with Holy Communion at both services

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 needed Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 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 <u>pastorpauldowning@yahoo.com</u>. 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Mary Ellen Tiffany, John Grube, Richard Klouda, Teresa Caliguiri [requested by the Klouda] Familv1 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 Grabrielle 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] Family and friends of Kathy Greaney, who has been called home to Christ, 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 Captain Zachary Hinsch [nephew of Judy & John Hinsch] 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.)