

A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE 2023

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Smithtown, New York 11787

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

> Third Sunday of Advent Family Worship with Holy Communion Christmas Pageant December 17, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (BELL CHOIR)

***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.

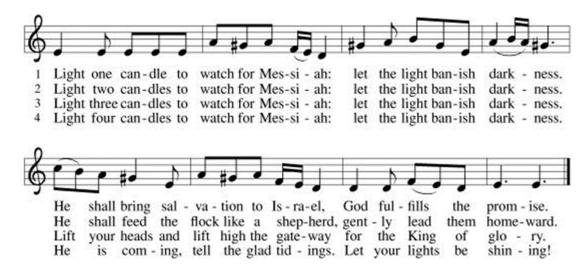
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.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



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 3 only)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you! And also with you!

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Children's Christmas Pageant - "A Christmas Surprise"

During the pageant the narrator will ask the congregation to sing the following hymns: O Little Town of Bethlehem Hymn#279 (verses 1-2) Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing Hymn#270 (verses 1-3)

O Little Town of Bethlehem



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

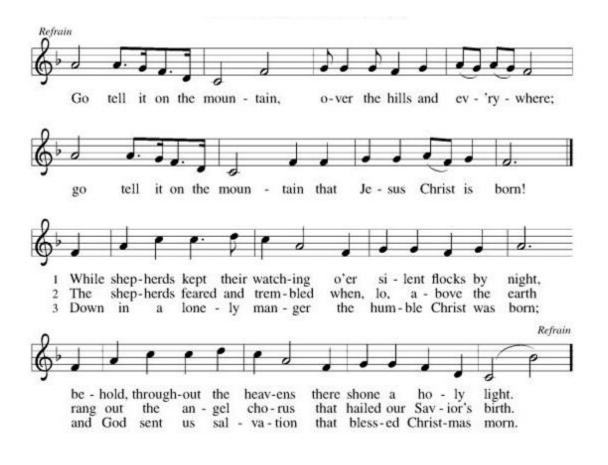
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

HYMN OF THE DAY # 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain



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

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.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need 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). Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. 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

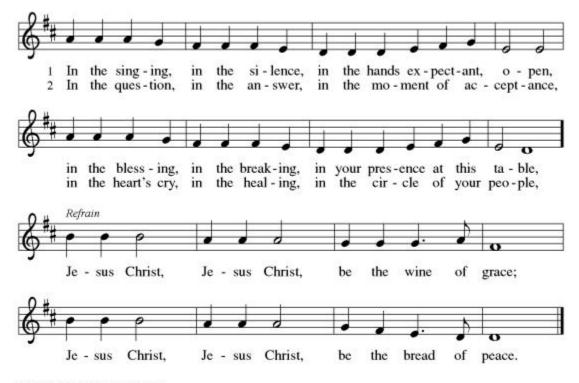
MEAL

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 #466 In the Singing

In the Singing



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931 Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926 Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission:

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***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

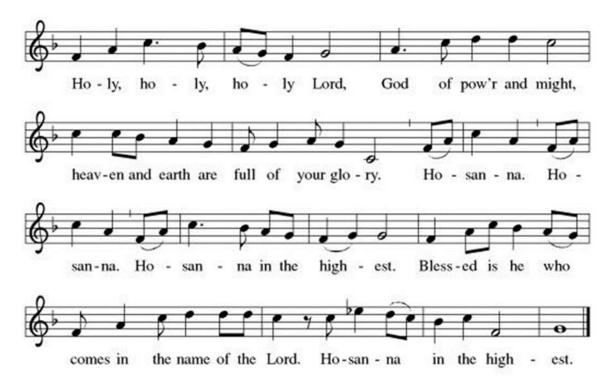
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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:

SANCTUS



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.**

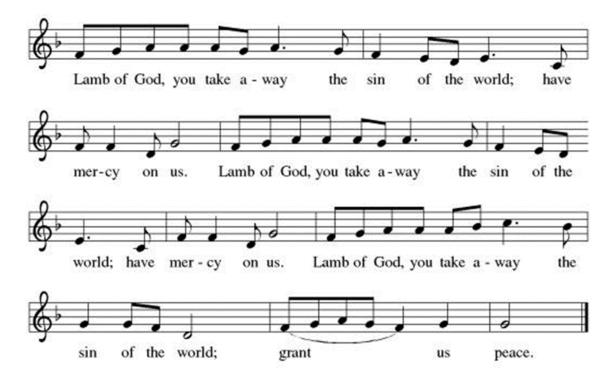
LORD'S PRAYER

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 # 488 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er." con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion. me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

COMMUNION HYMN #471 Let Us Break Bread Together



Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

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.**

1 Peo - ple, look time east. The is of the crown-ing near glad. Though earth 2 Fur - rows, be bare. is one more seed is the watch. When night dim, 3 Stars, keep IS one more light the 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new of the Make your house fair year. ble, as you are a plant - ed there. up your strength the seed Give to nour - ish, be - yond the frost - y bowl shall brim, shin - ing weath - er, life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming trim the set the ble. Peo - ple, look hearth and ta that in course the flow'r may flour ish. Peo - ple, look er. Peo-ple, look bright as sun and moon to geth . ing. Peo - ple, look with the word, the Lord is com sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is east, and on the way. to - day- Love, the sing Rose. is the way. east, and on is east, and sing to - day- Love, the Star, on the way. east, and sing to - day- Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SENDING HYMN #248 People, Look East

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

This morning we welcome Pastor Bruce Kaifler.

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

Congratulations to our Sunday School kids, staff, musicians, and helpers for a wonderful Christmas pageant!

Thank you to our choir & bell choir for their glorious music this morning.

Midweek Advent Services

St. Thomas of Canterbury

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

Wednesday at 7PM, December 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

Wednesday at 6:30PM December 20th 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

10:00 am Advent 4 with Holy Communion 4:30 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion 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 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 <u>info@standrewsofsmithtown.org</u>.

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.

Cast:

Narrator:	Joe Kostecki
Joseph:	Frankie Graziano
Mary:	Shelby Lloyd
Inn Keeper #1:	Cole Myers
Inn Keeper #2:	Aiden Erler
Inn Keeper #3:	Anthony Scavuzzo
Gloria - Star:	Sophie Cuevas
Little Stars:	Tyler & Carter Kassy, Owen Myers, Jordan Nelson
Angel #1:	Katie Francis
Angel #2:	Julianna Sanzone
Angel #3:	Scarlett Graziano
Angel #4:	Emma Lloyd
Little Angels:	Angelina Falcone, Alessandra Fontana, Violet Mangi
	Emily McNamara, Emma Nelson, Maria Scavuzzo, Kristina Shatz
Shepherd #1:	Andy Graziano
Shepherd #2:	Kevin McNamara
Shepherd #3:	Alex Francis
Wiseman #1 Gold:	Charlie Graziano
Wiseman #2	
Frankincense:	Jack Graziano
Wisemen #3 Myrrh	Chris Minor

Songs Sung by Sunday School Children The Angel Spoke to Young Mary Mary Had a Baby

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Pat Gasparo [requested by Meystrik family] 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 Cingue [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 Fiellstad] 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.)

Decorate the invitation and give it to a friend or neighbor.	Q
ſ	Jesus is Coming! Come to worship with me
	When: Christmas Eve What Time:
	Let's Get Ready for the Light!