

Welcome to Worship!

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost With Holy Communion June 16, 2024 10:00 am

Ministers, The People of God
Reverend Jean Dougherty
Director of Music, Nicholas Suminski
Cantor, Cynthia Davis
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen
Assisting Minister, Jill Spage
Readers: Grete Kraus, Cindy Davis
Ushers: Jane Samuelson, Linda Herzog
Priscilla Guild, Jane Samuelson



Welcome to St. Andrew's

This is Christ's Church:

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. **Those with us for the first time** are kindly asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and greeters and are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex. **Need prayer?** Kindly leave a message at the office, and we will contact you.

Our Mission:

Because God shows His Love through Jesus Christ, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a community of faith, gathered around Word and Sacrament, lives to WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, and SERVE, and welcomes all people to share God's love and to be workers together in this mission of the Church.

Communion:

St. Andrew's practices eucharistic hospitality. All are welcome at God's table. In response to Jesus's command, we celebrate with a worship meal of bread (or gluten-free by request) and red wine or white grape juice (in the center of the communion tray.) It is the Lutheran tradition to commune using both elements. However, we believe Christ is fully present when receiving one kind (bread or wine/grape juice). Those not communing and children are invited forward to receive a blessing and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions.

What is Reconciling in Christ?

This means we joyfully welcome all of God's people to worship with us regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or socio-economic circumstances.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

BLESSING OF WORSHIP FURNISHINGS

Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we give thanks to God, and we seek God's blessing as we set apart our refurbished lectern, a new ewer, and two mini-chalices to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

Send your blessing on this lectern, which we set apart today;
may it faithfully call people to worship and proclaim to the world your presence.

Send your blessing on these communion vessels, which we set apart today;
may all who receive the bread of heaven and the cup of blessing
be sustained by your grace and power.

Send your blessing on this baptismal ewer which we set apart today;
may all who receive your living water and gifts of baptism be filled with your Spirit.
and so proclaim the glory of your majesty.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!
Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

**Let us not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer,
present our requests to God.**

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!
Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

Surely the Lord is in this place.
This is the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!
Surely the Lord is in this place
This is the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!

Oh, come let us worship!
Oh, come let us worship!
Oh, come let us worship!
Oh, come let us worship!

PRELUDE

(The assembly stands as they are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins).

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(The assembly kneels as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
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.

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

GATHERING SONG #879 For the Beauty of the Earth

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.

KYRIE (VERSE FOUR)

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

**For Your Spirit to guide;
That You center our lives
In the water and the Word;
That You nourish our souls
With Your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
Refrain**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung, ELW pg 204)

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together,
(A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)

O God,
**you are the tree of life,
offering shelter to all the world.
Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth,
that we may bear your truth and love to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**
(The assembly may be seated.)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

A reading from Ezekiel

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

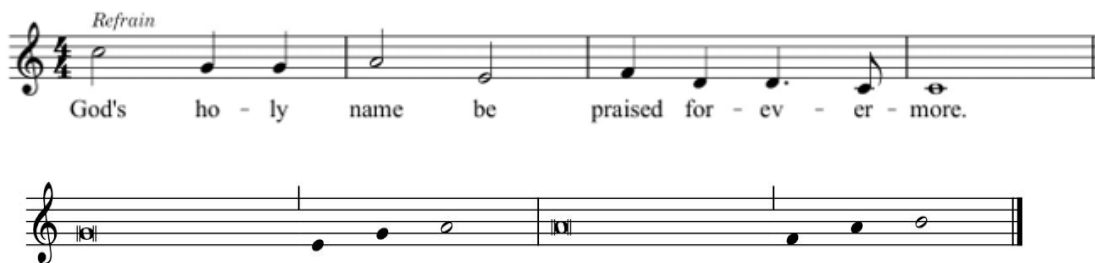
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15 (Choir introduces the refrain, assembly repeats. Psalm is chanted responsively)



¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. Refrain**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. Refrain**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

A reading from second Corinthians.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the

judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(The assembly may be seated.)

SERMON

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY #733 Great is Thy Faithfulness

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

(A brief silence.)

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(The assembly may be seated.)

OFFERING

(When Jesus fed the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity [see Mt. 14:13-21]. Thank you for sharing from the abundance you have received. Offerings may also be given online at the church website.)

OFFERING HYMN #465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Come and eat at God's table, where all are welcome.

COMMUNION

(The assembly may be seated. You may kneel or stand at the rail as you are able. Kindly follow the direction of the ushers.)

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN #635 We Walk by Faith

(After all have received, please stand as you are able.)

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES *(Any graduates present are invited forward to kneel at the rail.)*

Today we celebrate you who are graduating, or newly graduated from high school, college, or graduate programs: Amber Meystrik, Dean Meystrik, Riley Minor, Katelyn Baldwin, Savannah Donohue, Jack Greabell, Kevin Greabell, Lindsey Jenkins, Kayla O'Hagan, Rachel Johnson, Riley Rosini, Sophia Roccisano, and Lindsey Tomblin.

You are on a sacred journey.

**Your journey is not only the learning of your mind
but the growing of your heart.**

We celebrate the effort you have given to accomplish this.
And we ask God's blessing for the journey yet to come.

May God always give you gifts of curiosity and discipline.
May God give you courage to explore new things.

May the Spirit work in you that in all you do you may serve God.
**May the Spirit give you grace to do justice, to love kindly,
and to walk humbly with God.**

May you know always that Christ goes with you.
We who have made many journeys give you our blessing.

By the grace of God, we surround you with our prayers.
**Our spirits will go with you. For we too are pilgrims,
always learning, always by the grace of God beginning anew.**
Go in peace, and serve God with joy.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING #547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ! Go now, fed and forgiven, to be good news for the world. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE