Welcome to Worship! ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



First Sunday of Advent The Liturgy of Holy Communion November 30, 2025 10:00 am

Ministers, The People of God MNYS Bishop, The Reverend Dr. Katrina Foster Reverend Jean Dougherty Music, Kevin Kjaw Cantor, Cynthia Davis Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen Assisting Minister, Jill Spage Readers: Lorna Bosak, Luca Hoffman Ushers, Steve O'Hagan, Darlene Klouda, Donna & Frank Meystrik

Priscilla Guild: Pat Pernice





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 share prayer concerns at the lectern located at the church entrance to have a name read aloud during worship. Completing a prayer card or calling the office assures the name will appear in print, and you may ask to receive a call from the pastor.

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.





Introduction to Advent



Advent is a time for waiting for God, and
Advent is also a time of God waiting for us.

Waiting for us to SAY YES!

Brave like Mary.

Kind like Joseph.

Daring like the Shepherds.

Generous like the Wise Ones bearing gifts.

Advent is a time to SAY YES! to God.

Yes, to finding our place in the story.

Yes, to feasting at God's table of hope, peace, joy, and love without end.

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Romans 13)

People of God, the night is far gone, the day is near.

Awake from sleep, for salvation is closer now than when we first believed. In this holy season of waiting and watching, God invites us to **say yes**—yes to hope, yes to light, yes to the coming of Christ.

We say yes to God's new day!

Let us lay aside the works of night and put on the armor of light.

We say yes to the light of Christ breaking into our world!

Let us open our hearts to the One who is already drawing near.

We say yes to walking in the way of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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

PRELUDE

(Please stand as you are able.)

INVOCATION (The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace all your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, \pm comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

ELW #240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



God ful - fills shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights shin - ing!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (lighting the first candle.)

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen.

GATHERING SONG #260 "THE KING SHALL COME" (VERSES 1-3)



- The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and Not of die. as
- than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose Oh, bright - er
- Oh, bright er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. left and when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings. Hail, Christ the

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of hope, awaken our hearts to your coming. As Mary once said *yes* to your promise, help us say *yes* to you today—yes to your love, your justice, and your new beginning.

Keep us watchful, not with fear, but with the hopeful trust that your kingdom is near, just as surely as the fig tree shows summer is coming.

Prepare us to welcome your Son, Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. Amen.

(The assembly may be seated.)
ANTHEM

(St. Andrew's Choir)

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills:

all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob.

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation;

neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 (Cantor introduces the refrain, assembly repeats. Psalm is chanted responsively)





- ¹ I was glad when they [|] said to me, "Let us go to the house [|] of the LORD."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city that is at unity ¹ with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. Refrain
- ⁵ For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment, the thrones of the ¹ house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you.
- Peace be with- I in your walls and quietness with- I in your towers.
- 8 For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

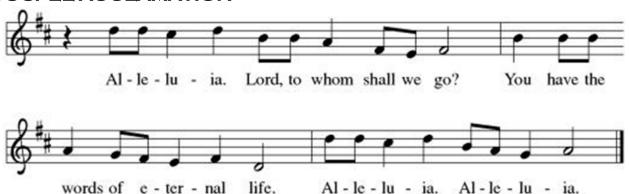
A reading from Romans.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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 #244 REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS



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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

We also include in our prayers today:

A brief silence.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words that build community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS, all on our prayer list and those we now name silently or aloud...... Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 #253 HE CAME DOWN



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er - more.

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER (assisting minister)

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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.

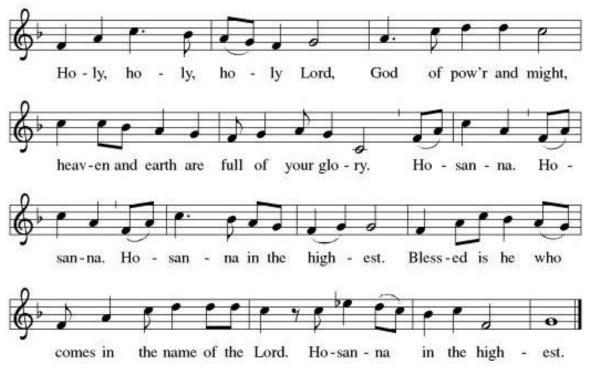
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

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

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, 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.

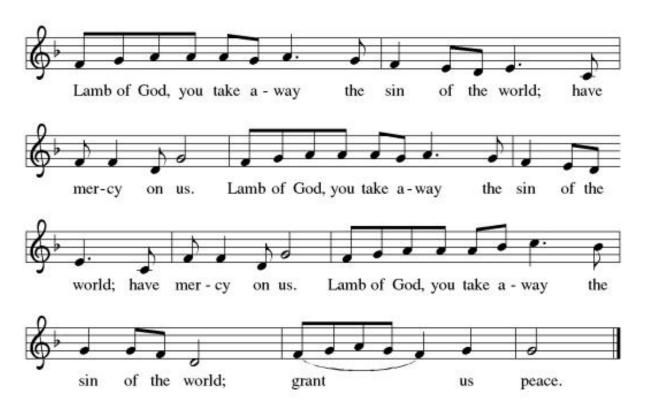
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As we wait and wonder, let us also be fed. Jesus welcomes all to this table. Come!

(The assembly may be seated.)

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Please follow the ushers' directions as you are invited forward to either kneel or stand at the rail.)



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

EUCHARISTIC 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 (assisting minister)

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. God + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #435 LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING (ALT. TUNE, REGENT'S SQUARE)

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Now redemption, long-expected, comes in solemn splendor near; all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!

3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

DISMISSAL (assisting minister)

You are the body of Christ. God now fed and forgiven to be signs of Christ coming to the world. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Vanessa Marie Lahann, Gavin Lahann [requested by Violet & Donnalee]

Allie Abruzzi [requested by Ashley Gyscek]

Tania Dufour [requested by Maria Gyscek]

Steve Jaffe, Jimmy, Richard & George Mengert Bruce Logan, Betty Perlish, Alex Hegarty,

Bob Widmer, Carmine Colasanto, [requested by Carolyn Gabelman]

Deirdre Reilly, Jeanne McCurdy, Belinda Busaca Zeitlin, Margo Naranjo [requested by Barbara English]

Mel Flaherty, Elizabeth Flaherty [requested by Amanda Flaherty]

Neil Gwinn [requested by Anastasia]

Family of Richie Cardoza [requested by Bill Moser]

Jimmy LaSurdo, David Schwack, Amanda Haeffer

Fran Favara [requested by Liz DeLuca]

Anita Ahrens, Craig Keil, Kate Furtado [requested by Janis Raineri]

Carynne Solensten [requested by Joanne Wortmann]

Sal Agnello, Charlie Macaluso [requested by Jane DeRosa]

Lyla Suffis [requested by Jen & Brett Suffis]

Karen Crimi, Jeffrey Gilmore, Rev. Wayne Gollenberg, Barbara McCanlis [requested by Jill Breimann]

Pastor Rebecca Pollicino, Ruth Clark

Stu Souza, Micelle Dozier-Morgan [requested by Mary Fjellstad]

Carolyn Martin [requested by Linda Overton]

James Riley [requested by Lita Riley]

Marissa Evers, Lauren Cravotta [requested by Joe & Margie Costello]

Rev. Margaret Casses, Jeff Taylor [requested by Fred Swanson]

The family of Robert Grisafi [requested by Colleen Donohue]

Mary Ellen Tiffany, Don Cimato [requested by the Klouda Family]

Bobby Hazen, James Pallazzo, Don Spagna, Rose Marie Peragine, Amy Jane McGlynn,

Richard Lewis, Rocky Cinque [requested by Marianne Spagna]

Judy Daley, Jennifer Meisenkothen, Rachel Boccio, John Sullivan [requested by Dorothy & Jim Clavell]

Carolyn Bennett [requested Jill Spage]

Arthur Schaeffler [requested by the Poulos Family]

Nancy M., Judy Zimmerman, Brett D, [requested by Cindy Davis]

Emilie Diehl [requested by daughters Cyndie & Kathy]

Emily Richardson, Betsy Johnsrud, Laura Hicks, Andrew Madarasz, [requested by Leslee & Steve Mathieson]

Marilyn Havighorst [requested by Martha Hahn]

Andy Hazin & the Hazin family, Ilse Gunther [requested by the Hoffman family]

David Travis [requested by Richard Travis]

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:

Sgt Eric Hodosky, Lt Col Lenore Livingston née Fortin, Corporal August Detting, LT Col William Fortin, Sgt Jack Dougherty, Sgt Jasmine Dougherty