

Welcome to Worship!

ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE
✠ DECEMBER 24, 2025
10:00PM

Ministers, The People of God
MNYS Bishop, The Reverend Dr. Katrina Foster
Reverend Jean Dougherty
Organist, Dan Grable
Cantor, Cynthia Davis
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen
Assisting Jill Breimann
Reader Janis Raineri, Cindy Davis
Ushers, Ken Breimann, Kevin Donohue, Steve O'Hagan
Joe Kostecki, Lorna Bosak
Priscilla Guild: Janis Raineri



ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.)

Our Lord Emmanuel, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace our forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Amen.

(The assembly kneels as they are able)

We find ourselves lost.

God finds us and claims us.

We convince ourselves we are unlovable.

God loves us completely.

We wonder if God is against us,

and God is running to us with open arms.

We find ourselves dirty.

God washes us clean.

Sometimes we are deep down in a dark hole,

and God is lifting us out.

When we feel old and used up,

God recycles us and makes us new again.

We wonder if our life is going anywhere.

God gifts us with purpose.

When we feel totally stuck with no hope of change.

God is conspiring to bring good things.

When we live under the control of habits or addictions,

God frees us and makes a way out.

When we feel beyond help, beyond mercy,

God lifts us up.

People of God, hear this good news:

Where we so often fail, God has succeeded!

You are completely forgiven of everything, not because of anything you have done for yourself, but because of God's great love for you in Jesus Christ. Forgiveness does not only come today, but in every moment.

And we, right now, together, begin a new life again.

In the name of God the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN #283 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: 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 & BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

Let us pray. O lord our god, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your son, born for us. Bless this creche and bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray

(silence is kept for reflection)

Ruler of all worlds and Shepherd of the stars, **this is the time we remember your gentleness hidden in a mother's hope, this is the time we believe again that love is stronger than fear, that peace is stronger than hate, that darkness will never conquer the light. We offer our gift of gratitude, grace us with your presence, for we are gathered in the name of love. In Jesus's name. Amen.**

(The assembly may be seated.)

ANTHEM (CHOIR)

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

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!

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

7 His 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 #272 “LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING” VS. 1 AND 2

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow’r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:1 1-14

The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.

A reading from Titus.

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#270 HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING VS. 1 AND 2

**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!**

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain**

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#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**

(The assembly may be seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY #279 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

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 peace proclaimed by the angels peace on Earth and goodwill among all people. For an end to war and violence, for justice where there is oppression, and for hearts softened by mercy and love that the prince of peace may reign in every nation and home. 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, illness, and those serving in the military, all on the prayer list; and all those we name before you silently or aloud.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.
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

@SASMITHTOWN



venmo

(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 #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!**

(please stand as you are able as the gifts are brought forward)

OFFERING PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

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**

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, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The wine is red, the grape juice is white. Those not communing and children are invited forward to receive a blessing and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions.)

LAMB OF GOD *SETTING THREE* PAGE 146



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 #282 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king.
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

(Please stand as you are able)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

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.**

HYMN #281 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

[During the introduction to the hymn, the ushers will come forward to pass the light to the congregation. Unlighted candles are then lit from the candle of the person next to you. Tip only the unlit candle. Children use the battery operated candles. When all candles are lit, the church is darkened, and hymn is sung. Candles are extinguished at the conclusion of the hymn.]

(Choir sings opening German verse)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht

nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,

schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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.

SENDING

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

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. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #267 JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25 10:00 AM THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28 AT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY 10:00 AM

A SERVICE OF EUCHARIST, LESSONS AND CAROLS

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT ST. ANDREW'S ON DECEMBER 28.

Merry Christmas to All!