

# Welcome to Worship!

# ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH



**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**† DECEMBER 25, 2025 10:00AM**

MINISTERS, THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
MNYS BISHOP, THE REVEREND DR. KATRINA FOSTER  
REVEREND JEAN DOUGHERTY  
HOMILIST, JILL SPAGE  
ORGANIST, MINERVA CHEN



# 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

*(please stand as you are able)*

## CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

**By day and night he shines for all to see.**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of our lives**

Sing to God a new song!

**A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

For unto us a Savior is born!

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth.**

## GATHERING HYMN #283 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL VS 1 AND 3

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: 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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God,  
the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace.  
Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## WORD

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

*(The assembly may be seated.)*

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 52:7-10

*Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
    are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
    who brings good news, who announces salvation,  
    who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;  
    together they shout for joy,  
    for in plain sight they see  
        the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth; shout together for joy,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

## PSALM 98 (*spoken responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done I marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have I won the victory.

**2 O LORD, you have made I known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight I of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the I house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory I of our God.

**4 Shout with joy to the LORD, I all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- I joice, and sing. Refrain**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD I with the harp,  
with the harp and the I voice of song.

**6 With trumpets and the sound I of the horn  
shout with joy before the I king, the LORD. Refrain**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and I all that fills it,  
the world and those who I dwell therein.

**8 Let the rivers I clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to I judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will judge the I world with righteousness  
and the peo- I ples with equity. **Refrain**

## SECOND READING: HEBREWS 1:1-4 [5-12]

*This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more

excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds

and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,

and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end.”

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

## HYMN #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's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

(please stand as you are able)

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

## HYMN #270 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king!;  
(*The assembly may be seated.*)

## HOMILY

*(please stand as you are able)*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### 275 ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY VS 1, 2 & 4

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

## 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.*

Christ is born and your Spirit is poured out upon us. Renew your church through the gift of baptism. Unite your faithful people across both distance and denomination. Teach us to live by your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal your presence over the heights of the mountains, through the cloud and lightning, and beyond the trembling of the earth. Still the storms that threaten the lands and send relief to all places and peoples experiencing natural disasters, extreme temperatures, or famine. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let all the ends of the earth know the promise of your reconciliation and renewal. Make beautiful the work of peacemakers, community organizers, and advocates who work to ensure that all people flourish in safety and dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, be our comfort and our redemption. Seek out all who feel forsaken or forlorn, especially those who are marginalized for any reason. Heal all who struggle in any way, all those serving in the military, all on the prayer list; and all those we now name silently or aloud....(pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Following the example of Mary and Joseph, let all our families, whatever their configuration, reflect your holy and life-giving love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you have guarded the lives of the saints, so shield us from evil and danger. Teach us by their example to serve you with joy and honesty of heart, that we live as heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 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.

**OFFERINGS** may be left on the plate at the church entrance.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

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 (spoken in unison)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. +Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna is the highest.**

## **EUCARISTIC 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

All are welcome at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

## COMMUNION *(spoken in unison)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*(All are invited to come forward and kneel around the rail for distribution)*

## EUCARISTIC BLESSING

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

*(please stand as you are able)*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## 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 HYMN #288 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

## DISMISSAL

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

*Merry Christmas to All!*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28 AT ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
HOLY EUCHARIST WITH LESSONS & CAROLS 10:00 A.M.

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES ON SUNDAY, 12/28 AT ST. ANDREW'S.