

Welcome to Worship!

ST. ANDREW'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Third Sunday of Advent
The Liturgy of Holy Communion
"The Christmas Story: Told by All of Us"
December 14, 2025
10:00 am**

Ministers, The People of God
MNYS Bishop, The Reverend Dr. Katrina
Foster
Reverend Jean Dougherty
Music, Dan Grable
Cantor, Cynthia Davis
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen
Assisting Minister, Jill Spage
Readers: Chris Lloyd, Mary Fjellstad, Joseph Kostecki
Ushers, Lorna Bosak, Danielle Lloyd, Leslee & Steve Mathieson
Priscilla Guild: Janis Raineri

SAY YES!



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.



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.

(note: Ideally, people should have their costumes on by the time they are entering the sanctuary, background is out, chairs out for Mary & Joseph)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.

Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.

There in Bethlehem and here today at St. Andrew's we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!

(Please stand as you are able. Three candles are lit.)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



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



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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

we praise you, o god, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for christ's advent.
**as we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the lord's coming in glory.
enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
grant this through christ our lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.**

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,

Amazing God, on this night so long ago, You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger.

You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith. We want to respond. Show us how. Help us receive your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

Narration – (Joseph Kostecki) – In the Genesis story, we hear that God created the world with language. God *said*, “Let there be light.” God *said*, “Let there be night and day.” God *said*, “It is good.” Then, in the first chapter in the Gospel of John, we hear how this language, the Word, is with God and Jesus.

First Reading John 1:1-4, 9 –13, 18b (Jill Spage)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
9 The true light, which helps everyone to see, was coming into the world. 10 Jesus was in the world, and Word that shaped the world was in him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 18 It is Jesus, a child of God, who by being close to the Father's heart, has made God known.

GATHERING SONG #677 THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Narration – (Joseph Kostecki) – In the 1st chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we learn of Mary's willingness to say yes to God even though what is being asked of her will not be easy. Being pregnant when not married is against the rules where and when she lives. There are some very hard consequences for breaking these rules.

Second Reading Luke 1:26 – 38 (Chris Lloyd)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the messenger of God, Gabriel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to an unmarried woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. 28 And Gabriel said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But Mary was much perplexed by his words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary asked, "How can this be, since I am unmarried?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the messenger of God departed from her.

SONG #574 "HERE I AM, LORD" (refrain, verse 1, refrain)

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

NARRATION – (Joseph Kostecki) – The place of Jesus' birth is in Bethlehem, a small town a few miles south of Jerusalem. But Bethlehem was not Joseph or Mary's hometown. They had to go to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus had made a law that everyone must be counted in the towns where their great-great grandparents (or ancestors) had been born. This was a long trip to travel by foot (about 60 miles or 3 days time). It would've been even more difficult since Mary was pregnant. When Mary and Joseph finally made it to Bethlehem, the hotel was already filled with people and there was no place for Mary and Joseph to stay. But there was a stable, where the animals rested, that Mary and Joseph were allowed to rest in as well.

**SONG #279 “LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” verses 1 & 2
[[MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY ENTER SANCTUARY AND SIT]].**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

NARRATION – (Joseph Kostecki) – In this stable, with only Joseph to help her, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus.

SONG #277 AWAY IN A MANGER (verses 1 & 2)

[[ANGEL with BIG STAR MOVES BEHIND MARY AND JOSEPH]]



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

NARRATION – (Joseph Kostecki) – Now, it was night time and in the fields nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks. Then an angel stood before the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around all of them. And the shepherds were terrified. But the angel of the Lord said to them: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Immediately after the angel stopped speaking, there were suddenly many angels praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

SONG #270 HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING (verses 1 & 3)

[[ALL OTHER “ANGELS” COME BEHIND MARY & JOSEPH]]



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



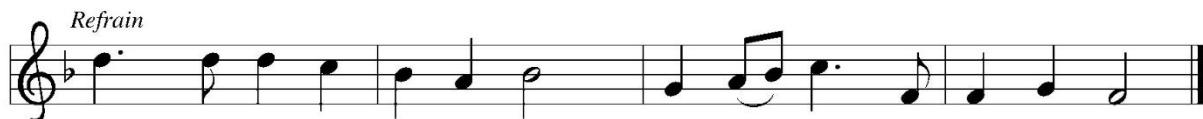
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

NARRATION – (Joseph Kostecki) – Then the angels left the shepherds and the shepherds took a deep breath (or maybe five or six deep breaths). Then they looked at each other and said: “We better go see this baby!”

SING #283 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (verses 1 & 3)

[[ALL "SHEPHERDS" MOVE TO FRONT ON LEFT]]



1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Narration – (Joseph Kostecki) – So this stable that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying was, as you heard earlier, home to some of the animals of the village. And these animals must've been pretty curious as to what a baby was doing in their feeding trough. If animals have thoughts, some of them might have sounded like this, "Hey this baby sure is cute, but where did our dinner go!?" and "What are all these

humans doing in our home! Let's smell them and find out!" So it's quite likely that these animals may have gathered around Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the shepherds for a closer look.

SONG DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? (verses 1 & 2)

[[ALL "ANIMALS" MOVE TO FRONT ON RIGHT]]

Said the night wind to the little lamb,

"Do you see what I see?

Way up in the sky, little lamb,

Do you see what I see?

A star, a star, dancing in the night

With a tail as big as a kite,

With a tail as big as a kite."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,

"Do you hear what I hear?

Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,

Do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song high above the trees

With a voice as big as the the sea,

With a voice as big as the the sea."

Narration – (Joseph Kostecki) – Now when the shepherds saw Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable, and saw that what the angel had said to them was true, they went out and made it known to whomever they met. Which means it's very possible that some of the townspeople went to the stable that very night to see and maybe even help Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus because of what the shepherds had told them.

And much later in the story, even Wisemen would go visit the newborn king.

SONG WOV #646 WE THREE KINGS (verses 1 & 2)
 [[Some STARS and Wisemen MOVE AROUND COMMUNION RAIL]]

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

CONCLUSION BY PASTOR

HYMN OF THE DAY #290 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

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 prayer today:

A brief silence.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for all on our prayer list and those we now name silently or aloud... In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith, especially Mary, the mother of Jesus. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. 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

@SASMITHTOWN



*venmo
website.)*

(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; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

(The assembly stands as gifts are brought forward.)

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

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.

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

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.)

COMMUNION HYMN #471 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

#479 WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know-ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

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

EUCARISTIC 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.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

(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 #267 JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Why are we waiting?
For the coming of Jesus.
 How are we waiting?
With patience and hope.
 Go in peace. Soon, and very soon, we are going to see the king.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Debbie Bartfield and Rose [requested by Pastor Jean]
Elena Quandt [requested by Doreen Flanagan]
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]
Gina Marie, 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



Blue Christmas Service at St. Thomas of Canterbury

Wednesday, December 17th 7:00pm

Let us join together for a Contemplative Liturgy
of Remembrance

Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm - Family Candlelight Service with
Holy Communion

10:00pm – Festive Candlelight Service with
Holy Communion

Christmas Day Services

10:00am – The Nativity of Our Lord

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28th, 10:00am

A Festival of Lessons & Carols at
St. Thomas of Canterbury

****NO WORSHIP AT ST. ANDREW'S****