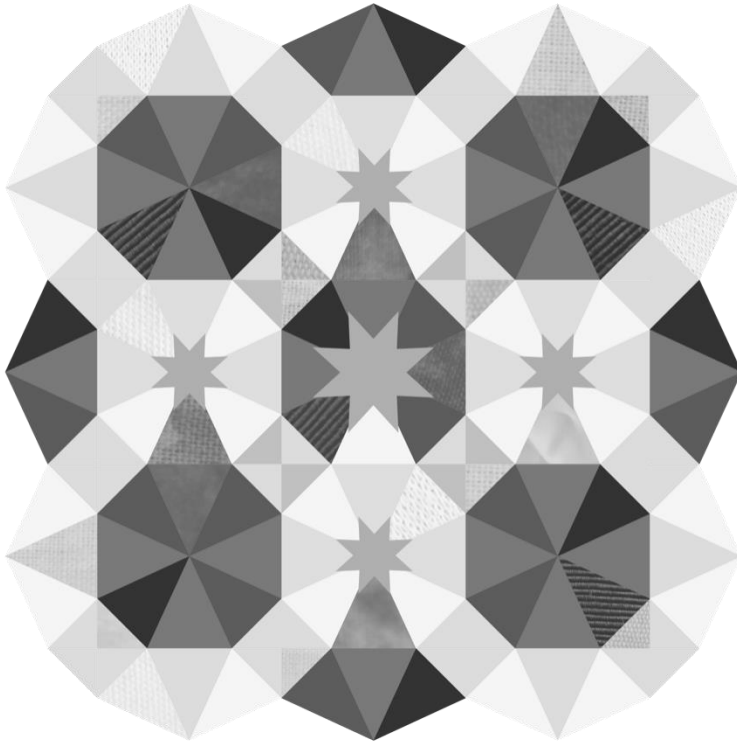


# Third Sunday of Advent

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

December 15, 2024



**FOR THE BEGINNING**

— DO THE GOOD THAT —  
IS YOURS TO DO

# Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We will continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."  
- Romans 15:7

## Orientation to the Service

**This bulletin** will guide you through the entire service. Started on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

**Hymns (songs)** are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

**Green-topped Welcome Cards** are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

**Children are welcome in worship!** God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children just outside the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

**Restrooms** can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. A gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the entrance to the kitchen.

**Online access** to the bulletin and hymns: [standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/](http://standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/)



**WORDS**  
**FOR THE BEGINNING**  
— DO THE GOOD THAT —  
IS YOURS TO DO

## INTRODUCTION

*As John the Baptist is teaching about bearing good fruit, the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers ask him, "What, then, should we do?" His answer to each group is slightly different, but ultimately the same: "Do the good that is yours to do." We can each bear good fruit through acts of justice and righteousness. We can all be what Isaiah calls "repairers of the breach" by satisfying the needs of the afflicted.*

## PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Bells of Grace

arr. Barbara  
Baltzer Kinyon

## GATHERING

*THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.*

## WELCOME

*The congregation may stand.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

"Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?"

**If you have two shirts, give one away.**

**Hold onto hope.**

**Live like we belong to one another.**

**Speak the truth.**

**Look for God.**

**Do the good that is yours to do.**

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

**Let us worship our present and active God.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings joy. We are  
5 wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings joy. Sun of  
9 joy now shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your pro - mise. We are  
13 wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings joy.

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**Let us start small.**

**Let us begin with what is right in front of us.**

**Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!**

Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

**May these lights remind us of what could be.**

**May these lights inspire action.**

**May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.**

May it be so!

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)

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 FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray.

Listening God, we know that you are constantly speaking to us. Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships, you make yourself known again and again. In gratitude, we long to return the favor. In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway. So in this moment, we are quieting the noise in our heads. We are closing our eyes. We are leaning in. We are listening. We are doing the good that is ours to do. Speak to us through the chaos. Speak to us as only you can. With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **WORD**

*GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Allison Bengfort

READING

Isaiah 58:9b-12

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

People, Look East (ELW 248, verse 3)

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Star, is on the way.**

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-16

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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

*The congregation is seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

## CONTEMPLATION

*During this time of quiet reflection, you are invited to focus on the divine presence among us. May it wrap you up in love, like your favorite quilt or blanket. You are invited to move about the space or remain in your seat. You may choose to engage in one or more of the following contemplative practices:*

- *Contemplative walking (aisles between and around the pews)*
- *Candle lighting (back of the sanctuary)*
- *Visio Divina, a.k.a. contemplation through visual art (back of the sanctuary)*
- *Prayer around the altar (kneelers and kneeling cushions at the front)*
- *Finger Labyrinth Meditation (handouts in basket by Chrismon tree)*
- *Poetry, Visio Divina, or Reflection (p. 19-26 in the Devotional Booklet in the pew rack in front of your seat)*

*At the end of the contemplation time, the cantor will lead us in singing the mantra below. Please return to your pew during the singing.*

Do the good that's yours to do.  
Do the good that's yours to do Let God's light and love  
fill the world with Joy. A - men.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,  
**teach us to make a difference.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.). Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.*

*The congregation is seated.*

## OUR MINISTRY AND MISSION

### ***MEAL***

*GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.*

---

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

In worship, we offer our full selves to God, the Source of all that is. We give thanks for the financial resources we have been granted through God's grace to steward in this life. As an act of gratitude and faith, we share these financial resources with our church community.

*Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online ([standrewlutheran.com/give](http://standrewlutheran.com/give)). Thank you for your generosity!*

### OFFERING

"He Came Down"  
Lee Anne Knapp, vocalist

arr. Phil Kadidlo

He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.  
He came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.  
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.  
God is so good; God's so good to me.  
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

*The congregation may stand.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



## DIALOGUE

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.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the cup of wine (red chalice) or the cup of grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of the bread only. If you prefer not to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.*

COMMUNION SONG      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257, verses 5 & 6)

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN      Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)

*The congregation may stand.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, you have welcomed us at your table where all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. Thank you for giving us this glimpse of your kingdom. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and wine to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful.

**Amen.**

## ***SENDING***

*GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.*

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Christ: Bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent siblings. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one another. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again. So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again. In the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do the good that is yours to do.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”  
Lindsey Lane, piano

Curt Oliver

## Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort  
Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort  
Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn  
Acolyte: Cora Kalainoff  
Altar Flowers: Noelle & Tom Mehlhorn  
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn  
Bells of Grace: Kim Taylor Blakemore,  
Joe Calhoun, Libby Calhoun,  
Pat Christiansen, Robert Casteel,  
Liz Hardy, Christina Mantey,  
Tammy Piscitelli, John Reiser,  
Casey Tkacz, Janet Vorvick  
Cantor: Lee Anne Knapp

Communion Assistant:  
Kim Taylor Blakemore  
Greeter:  
Lector: Tara Harper  
Musicians: Lindsey Lane;  
Kristie Gladhill, flute;  
Susan Werner Reiser, piano  
Nursery Assistant: Henry Staul  
Tech Team: Jim McGarvey,  
Chase Isaacson  
Ushers: Mike & Linda McDowall  
Worship Coordinator:  
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell



*"We Are Waiting for Jesus," "People, Look East," and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" are used with permission from One License. Tune for "Do the Good That's Yours..." is used with permission from WGRG, Iona Community, admin GIA Publications, Inc. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service is obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-722821. Liturgy taken from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*