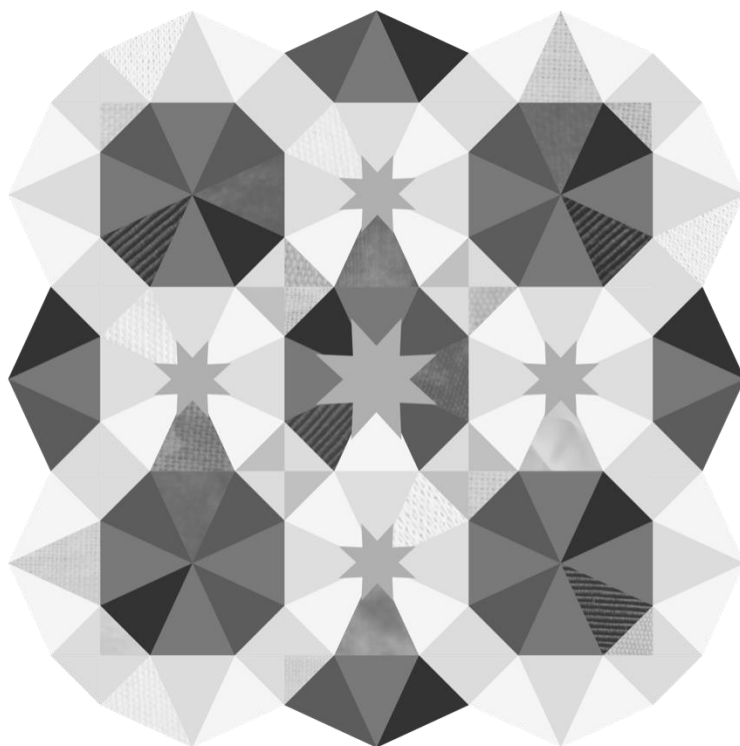


First Sunday after Christmas

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

December 29, 2024



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —

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/



INTRODUCTION

The birth of Christ brings good news of great joy to all people, which is cause for celebration. On this First Sunday after Christmas, we encourage you to be playful, to not take yourself too seriously, to laugh. For laughter is like hope – it has a ripple effect. It's one of the many ways we live and share the good news.

PRELUDE

“Hymn to Joy”
Lindsey Lane, piano

arr. Jeanne Cotter

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we name our joy out loud, it is clear –
God is in our joy.

God is in this room.
We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.
Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

GATHERING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

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.

God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we know that you speak to us in the quiet. We know that when we bow our heads and fall to our knees, you are there, hovering close, calling our names. However, we also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when we dance and clap with joy, when we skip and sing with gratitude, that even there, you are speaking. So on this Sunday morning we pray: open our ears and hearts to hear what it is that you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we pray. We laugh. 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

LESSON

Luke 2:10

A reading from Luke.

¹⁰The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL RESPONSE

Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290, verse 1)

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, through the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-3

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL RESPONSE

Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290, verse 2)

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** *Refrain*

LESSON

Psalms 126:1-3

A reading from the Psalms.

¹When GOD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, "GOD has done great things for them."
³GOD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL RESPONSE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270, verse 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

A reading from Isaiah.

¹²You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to GOD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288, verse 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!**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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 HYMN

From Heaven Above (ELW 268, verses 1 & 14)

**From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world and gladly sing:**

**"Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Once in Royal David's City (ELW 269)

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.

BLESSING

The God of love, Creator, † Christ, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Love Has Come (ELW 292)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Don't forget to laugh!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” arr. Anna Laura Page
Lindsey Lane, piano

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort

Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort

Assisting Minister:

Sister India Jensen Kerr

Acolyte:

Altar Flowers:

Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn

Cantor: Janet Vorvick

Communion Assistant:

Kim Taylor Blakemore

Greeter:

Lector: Pam Farr

Musician: Lindsey Lane

Nursery Assistant:

Tech Team:

Ushers: Bill & Sandi Beavers

Worship Coordinator:

Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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