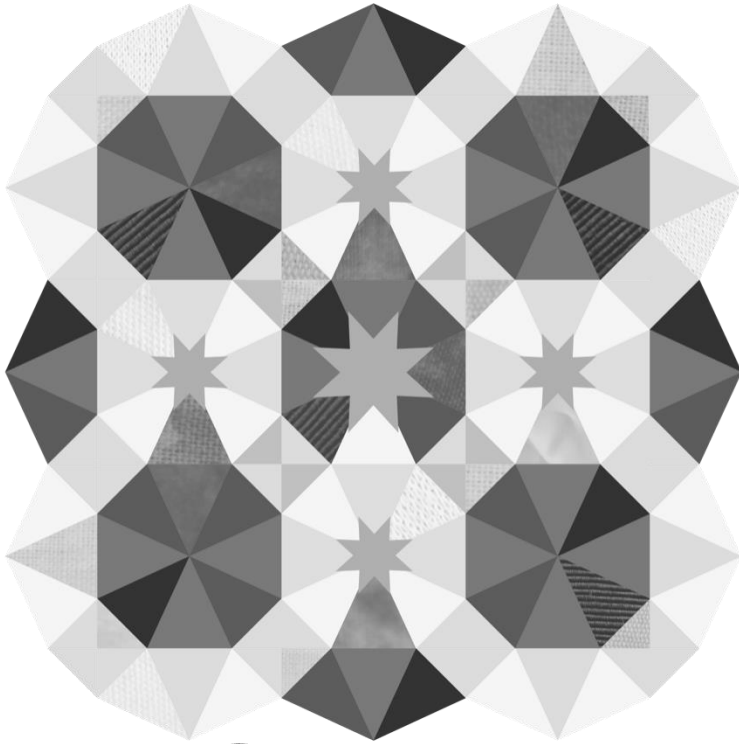


Epiphany of Our Lord

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

January 5, 2024



FOR THE BEGINNING

— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

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/

GATHERING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
(ELW 815, verses 1 & 2)

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 starlight, we long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts 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 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the

desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (ELW 301, verse 3)

**Sages from the east afar, when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been

warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (ELW 301, verse 5)

**Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.**

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. 47-52 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.



The road is - n't straight. The road



is - n't straight. We walk on in faith.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Here at this beginning,
we bring you our prayers.

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). Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING “May My Light Shine” Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo
Liz Hardy, vocalist; Pat Christiansen and Kim Taylor Blakemore, handbells

May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.

May my light shine for my Jesus and my king.

May I shine so others see,

Star of wonder, star of light, shining down for all to see.

Star of wonder, star of light, shine your light through me.

Star of wonder, star of light, may I keep my eyes on you.

Star of wonder, star of light, shine in all I do.

The congregation may stand.

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 Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (ELW 301, verse 6)

**And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN As with Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302)

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Holy God who lights our way, we thank you for this moment of respite along the journey, a moment to be filled with good things, to be reminded of our belovedness, and sent out to be your hands and feet in the world.
Amen.

SENDING

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

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

We Are Marching in the Light (ELW 866)

“Singing” will replace “marching” for the second verse.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Journey onward.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“We Are Marching in the Light of Christ”
Susan Werner Reiser, piano

John Carter

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn
Acolyte:
Altar Flowers:
Altar Guild: Liz Hardy
Cantor: Liz Hardy
Communion Assistants:
Julie & Jim Aageson
Greeter:

Handbells: Pat Christiansen,
Kim Taylor Blakemore
Lector: Julie & Jim Aageson
Musicians: Susan Werner Reiser;
Robert Hawthorne, piano
Nursery Assistant: Amy Harker
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Clay & Debi Gustafson
Worship Coordinator:
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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