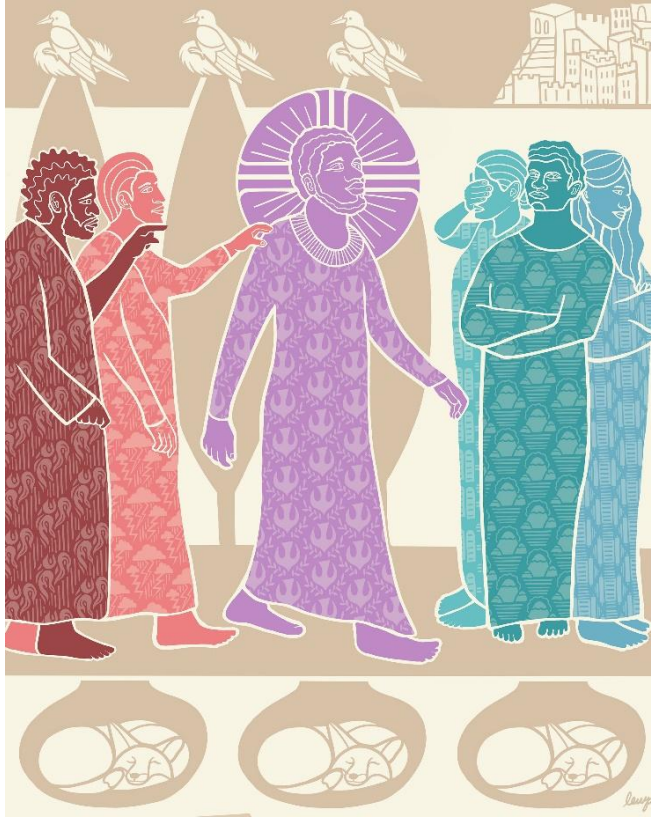




everything [in] between

intention & action



Ash Wednesday

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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. Starting 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 on a shelf in the back of 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/

Ash Wednesday

First Day of Lent, March 5, 2025 | 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

The “would-be followers” (as the NRSVUE Bible translation calls them) have good intentions. They want to follow Jesus, but Jesus calls them to put their money where their mouths are. Somewhere between good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. On Ash Wednesday, we make a commitment to align our intentions and our actions.

PRELUDE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Susan Werner Reiser, organ

arr. Paul W. Hofreiter

GATHERING

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

The congregation may stand.

INVOCATION

God meets us in the night —
**before the sun rises, before the wound heals,
before there are answers, before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light —
**where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between —
**at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere —
at the water’s edge, at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and before the call.**

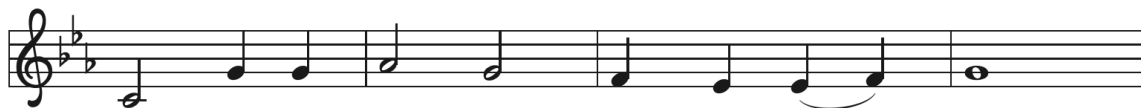
We are not alone. God is all around.
Let us worship the God of everything.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

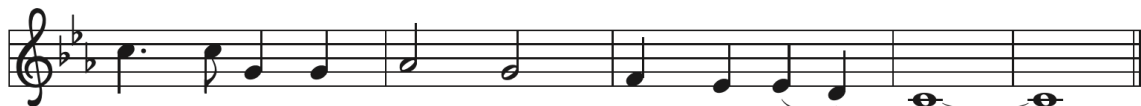
Lent is a season that invites us to be intentional. Lent asks us, how will you go deeper these next six weeks? How will you grow closer to God and your neighbor? What will you do to strengthen your faith? Much like Christ, Lent invites us to go deeper. Despite our best efforts, that soul-tending work is often easier said than done. However, instead of entering this season already feeling behind, let us enter this season with honesty. Let us enter this season aware of our hopes, and aware of the challenges. Let us enter this season wrapped in God's grace. Friends, join me in speaking honestly to God. Join me in receiving mercy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, "let me get ready."

Jesus said, "follow me."

And I said, "just one minute!"

Jesus said, "Follow me."

And I said, "I'll be there soon!"

The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.

Jesus, forgive my delay. I want to follow you.

Turn my intentions into actions. Show me the way.

Amen.

Lent asks,

“How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?”

Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,

regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,

we are not alone.

We are seen and loved by God.

We are held in grace.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

The congregation is seated.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation is invited forward to receive ashes and hear the words,

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together.

Holy God, your invitation is simple. You lean in close. You say our name. With joy in your voice, you invite us to follow. But the noise of this world is distracting, and we are afraid, so we get stuck somewhere between our head and our heart. We get stuck somewhere between our intent and our action. So today we pray, speak to us again. Tell us the story. Invite us to follow. Speak once more, of good news that will not leave us alone. Speak to us again, for we are listening. Amen.

POEM FOR REFLECTION

“Both, Please” by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

It's one thing to speak of love. It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith. It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the Divine. It's another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper, *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

It's one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me both, please. Show me both, please.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Things of Dust to Dust Return (ACS 920)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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.

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Siblings in Christ, we believe in a God who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives. As we offer our gifts today, we remember God's sustaining presence. I invite you to lift up an offering today as a sign of hope and an act of compassion that reflects the love of Christ.

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

A Right Spirit

Stephan Casurella

12p – Janet Vorvick, vocalist | 7p – Sanctuary Choir

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me,
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure:
Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,
According to your loving kindness.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

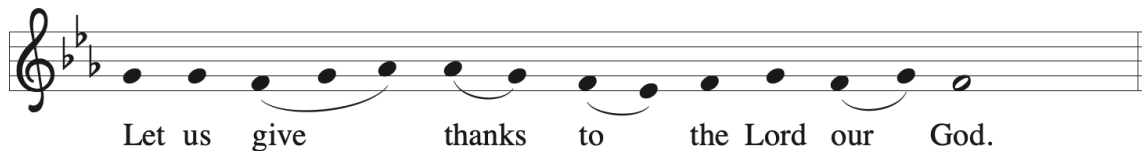
DIALOGUE



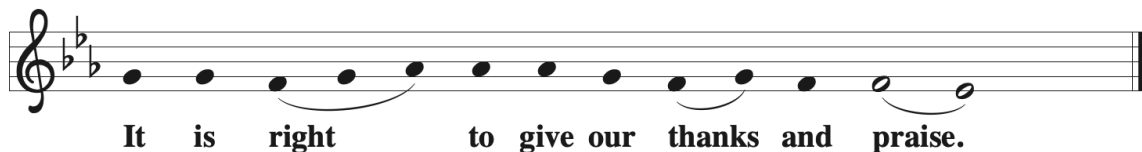
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



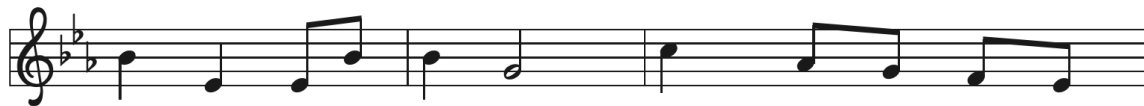
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER



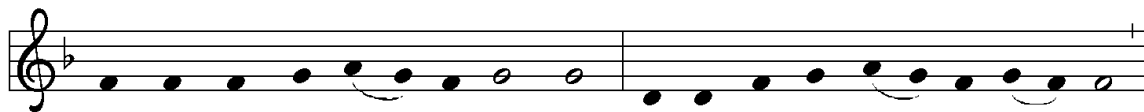
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

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.

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey (ELW 326)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Bless Now, O God, the Journey
Susan Werner Reiser, organ

arr. David Christensen

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort

Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort

Assisting Minister:

Sister India Jensen Kerr, 12p;

Pat Christiansen, 7p

Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser

Lector: Kim Taylor-Blakemore, 12p;

Pam Farr, 7p

Musician: Susan Werner Reiser

Sanctuary Choir (for 7p service only):

Pat Christiansen, Kristie Gladhill,

Liz Hardy, John Reiser,

Lynn Santelmann,

Kim Taylor-Blakemore, Janet Vorvick,

Carol Werner

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