

everything [in] between

stranger & neighbor



First Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 9, 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/

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025 | 9:30 AM

This parable begins and ends with the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and the answer is, surprisingly, “the stranger.” The Samaritan, whose place of worship and customs are different from the scribe who questions Jesus, is both a stranger and a neighbor to the man who was beaten and left in a ditch. In our world, many of our physical neighbors are strangers to us, and many of our neighbors – those closest to us – feel like strangers in divisive political climates. If we align our intentions and actions, then maybe we need to reconsider who we consider “stranger,” and ask ourselves if we have acted as good neighbors.

PRELUDE

Seek Ye First
Lindsey Lane, piano

arr. Mark Albrecht

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kyler Vogt

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

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.

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done. Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change. So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass.

Pause for silent confession.

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.

Family of faith,
 When we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,
God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,
God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
 that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel: We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The congregation is seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, we love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. Amen.

POEM FOR REFLECTION

“Never Met a Stranger” by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

When we talk about God, we say
she's never met a stranger.
She makes friends at the airport.
She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll leave the porch light on.
She'll have warm bread in the oven.
She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll look you in the eye.
She'll love you as you are.
She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road she might walk down.
Wherever you are,
that's where she'll be.

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 10:25-37

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Kyler Vogt

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Beautiful Things (ACS 920, vs. 3, repeated once)

All a - round ___ hope is spring-ing up from this old ground. ___ Out of cha-os,
life is be-ing found ___ in ___ you. You make beau-ti-ful things,
___ you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust. ___ You make beau-ti-ful things,
___ you make beau-ti - ful things out of us. ___

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.

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

Be Thou My Vision
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Kyle S. Haugen

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou my inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

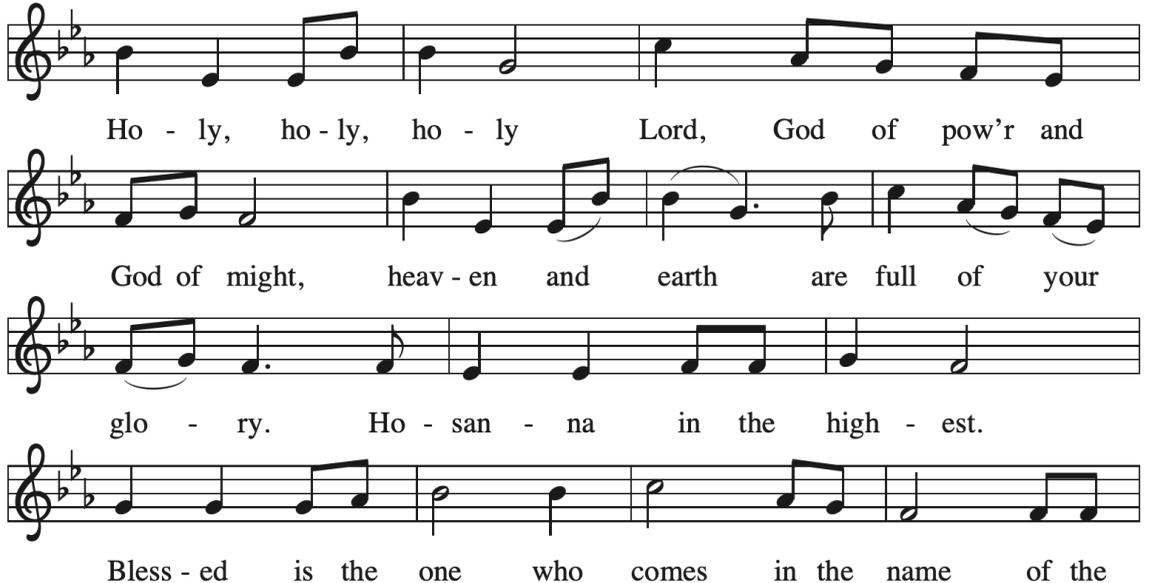
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

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



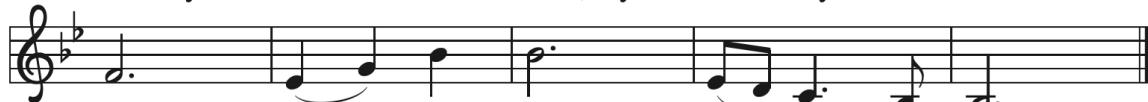
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (ELW 708)

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. 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 the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The Glory of These Forty Days
Lindsey Lane, piano

arr. Mark Sedio

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Kyler Vogt
Assisting Minister: Sr. India Jensen Kerr
Acolyte:
Altar Flowers: Susan Werner Reiser
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn
Communion Assistant:
Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Greeters: Michelle & Randy Sinn
Lector: Lee Anne Knapp
Musician: Lindsey Lane

Nursery Attendants: Amy Harker,
Carol Harker
Sanctuary Choir: Pat Christiansen,
Kristie Gladhill, Liz Hardy,
John Reiser, Lynn Santelmann,
Kim Taylor-Blakemore, Janet Vorvick,
Carol Werner
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Clay & Debi Gustafson
Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Werner Reiser
in memory of her father, Herbert Werner*

Cover art: "Neighbors," pen and ink on paper by Steve Prince

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