

Ascension Sunday

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
June 1, 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/

Ascension Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 1, 2025 | 9:30 AM

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE

I Come with Joy a Child of God, David Dahl
Susan Werner Reiser, organ

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

I Come with Joy | ELW 482

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*During the singing, the congregation is sprinkled with water in remembrance of baptism.
 You are invited to make the sign of the cross after the water touches you.*



Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace, _____ to God's
 peo - ple on earth, _____ O God, heav'n - ly One,
 al-might-y God and Sov - reign, we wor-ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

O Je - sus Christ, On - ly be - got - ten One. True God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are
seat - ed at the right hand of Ma - jes - ty: re - ceive our
prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the most High,
Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the
glo - ry of God Al - mighty. A men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kim Taylor-Blakemore

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

Luke writes: ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has

been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 93

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.
The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

**²Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

**⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is

named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Kim Taylor-Blakemore

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! | ELW 393

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

THANKSGIVING

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SAVING WORD AND ALL GOD'S GIFTS.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called to use whatever resources you have to co-create a world of flourishing for all? You are invited to bring your life-affirming, resurrecting intentions to this offering so that together, we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm until all know the true power of Love.

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

*Down in My Heart, George William Cooke
Lee Anne Knapp, vocalist*

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I've got the peace that passes understanding Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the peace that passes understanding Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

Congregation joins on the last verse:

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay.**

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Let All Things Now Living | ELW 881

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our father God, let all hold your name holy. May your peace and love prevail throughout the world. Let your desires be true. Give us the bread of life, so we may stay true in our faith. Forgive us of our wrongdoings, so we may forgive our wrongdoers. Carry us through our trials, and help us resist evil. May your reign of peace and love last forevermore. Amen.

The above rendition of the Lord's Prayer is by one of St. Andrew's confirmation students.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light our way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West | ELW 650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Christ Lag in Todesbanden, J. S. Bach
Susan Werner Reiser, organ



Serving in Worship

Presider: Libby Calhoun
Preacher: Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn
Acolyte:
Altar Flowers:
Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser
Greeters:

Lector: Rick Koch
Musician: Susan Werner Reiser
Nursery Attendants: Sonja Ackman
Tech Team: Janet Vorvick, Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Ron & Jan Wismer
Worship Coordinator:
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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