

seeking:

*How do we
begin again?*



Second Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 1, 2026

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, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, 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 understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing 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. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026 | 9:30 AM

Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the veil of night to ask him big faith questions. Jesus invites him to begin again, to learn a new way of knowing and living out his faith. In Genesis, God commands Abram and Sarai to leave everything – their home, their family, their land – to seek the land of Canaan and begin again. Like Nicodemus, what are the questions we ask in the dark? Like Abram and Sarai, how do we follow God’s calling to begin again?

PRELUDE

Pavane, Gabriel Fauré arr. by Douglas Wagner
Bells of Grace, directed by John Gladen

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

KYRIE

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pause for silent confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you.

The KYRIE above is repeated.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than you can imagine. No matter what you did or didn't do yesterday, you have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, you are made new.

Join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together.

Holy God, we come to you today with our biggest questions: Who are we called to be? What do you need from us? Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly? As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text. Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray. Amen.

READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from Genesis.

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

POEM

“How Do We Begin Again?” by Rev. Sarah Speed

Do we slide into something new?
Do we make a formal announcement? *Dearest reader,*
I have decided to begin again. Do we turn gradually, a gentle yield
in a new direction; or like a wave,
do we crash onto the shore of a new day?
Do we grieve the change? Are there breadcrumbs on the path?
Will Nicodemus be there?
Will it ever be easy?

I'm not sure exactly how we begin again,
but I know that moths wrap themselves in silk,
and after quite some time,
after many long nights,
after days spent alone,
they break out of their shell.
They pull themselves out under open sky,
and they spend the rest of their days chasing the light.

Maybe it's always that way with beginnings.
Maybe it feels like the protective layer falling away.
Maybe we have to go it alone at first.
Maybe it feels like pulling and dragging yourself into something new.
Maybe there's always open sky at the other end.

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.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world as to give God's only Son, so that everyone who believes may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

WONDERING TIME

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This | ELW 666

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.

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 by scanning the QR code to the right.
Thank you for your generosity!*



OFFERING

Psalm of David, Donald Waters
Janice Fairlee, harp; John Gladen, vocals

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING 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.

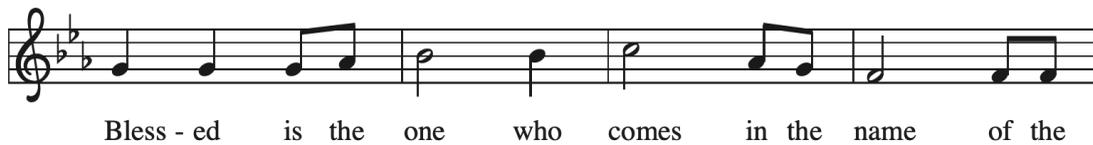
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.



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 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

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 wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer 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 SONG

Be known to us Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread. Ho -
- sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na. Be known to us Lord
Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread. Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho -
- sa - - - na, ho - sa - na

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

God Loved the World | ELW 323

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.

BLESSING

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.
 Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.
 Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.
 As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.
 In the name of our loving God, + who is always seeking us.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross | ELW 660

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you in your seeking.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**Serving Today in Worship**

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort

Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort

Assisting Minister: LuAnn Staul

Altar Guild: Patty Jones

C.C. Teacher: Lindsay Delaney

Lector: Tom Mehlhorn

Musicians: Karl Gustafson, Janice Fairlee,

John Gladen

Nursery Assistant: Lee Anne Knapp

Tech Team: Chase Isaacson

Ushers: Ed & Linda Fransen

Welcome Team: Amy Fiegenbaum,

Dana Taylor-Blakemore

Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen

Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

“Lift High the Cross” is used with permission from One License. “What Wondrous Love Is This” and “God Loved the World” are in the public domain. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service is obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-722821 and CCLI #21945303 & #21945310.

Some elements of the liturgy used with permission: Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Other elements of the liturgy taken from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.