

seeking:

Who sinned?



Fourth Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 15, 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/

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 | 9:30 AM

When Jesus and the disciples encounter a blind man along the way, the disciples immediately ask, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). They ask a really bad question, filled with assumptions and harmful theology. Unfortunately, the crowd continues to interrogate the man and dissect the miracle of his healing. This week, let us pay attention to the questions we ask. What assumptions do we carry? What is our intent? When seeking clarity or understanding, what are better questions we can ask?

PRELUDE

Kristie Gladhill

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

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

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of forgiveness.

Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

The KYRIE above is repeated.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Let us declare to each other the good news!

Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

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.

God of Good news, there is reading your Word, there is hearing your Word, and then there is tunneling ourselves into your Word – harvesting your Word, building a home in your Word, laying your Word over us like a blanket, wrapping ourselves in your Word, know your Word like the back of our hand, singing your Word, planting ourselves like a garden in your Word. God, we could listen to scripture like we listen to the news, or we could cocoon ourselves in your Word and it could change us entirely. So bundle us up. Give us the latter. We want to know you. With hopeful hearts we pray. Amen.

READING

John 9:1-7

A reading from John.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of God who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

POEM

“Jesus in the Psych Ward” by Rev. Sarah Speed

He’s in group therapy, plastic chairs in a circle.
Paper cups with weak coffee. Everyone in the room has seeking eyes.

The Pharisees admitted him. They said things like,
He’s more than we can handle. They let the rumors fly.

The other patients like him. They say, *He listens to me.*
He calls them by name.

And when one of them asks,
Is this our fault? Are we here because we sinned?
Jesus does not wait for the facilitator to speak.
He crosses the circle. He kneels down. He grabs their hands
in his and says,

*Child of the covenant, God loves you too much to ever wish you pain.
Bodies and minds crumble sometimes, but God’s love for you does not.*

And after that
there were happy tears and the group was dismissed to lunch,
where they broke bread and no one talked of sin.

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.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen the formerly blind man before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Temple authorities did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Temple authorities who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that

though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but God does listen to one who worships and obeys the will of God. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

Lord Jesus, You Have Work for Us

1. Lord Je - sus, you have work for us, and yet we can-not see Just
 2. Lord Je - sus, there are those with us who do not un-der-stand The
 3. Lord Je - sus, we are thank-ful that you help us to be - lieve That

what to do or how to go so you a - maz - ing - ly Pro -
 vis-ion that you give to us to fol - low your com - mand. We
 you are tru - ly Son of Man and that we can re - ceive The

-vide the vis - ion that we need, so we may serve you lov-ing - ly.
 on - ly know that you e - quip us for the mis-sion you have planned!
 gift of see - ing how you love us, and how you our fears re - lieve!

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

*Be Thou My Vision, Irish Traditional
Sanctuary Choir, directed by John Gladen*

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

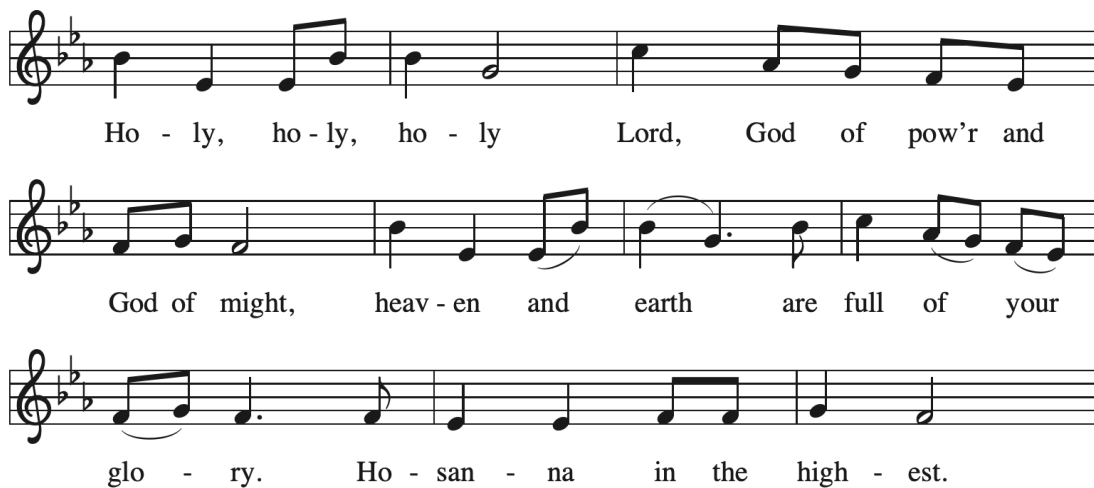
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

The HOLY, HOLY, HOLY continues on the next page ►

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

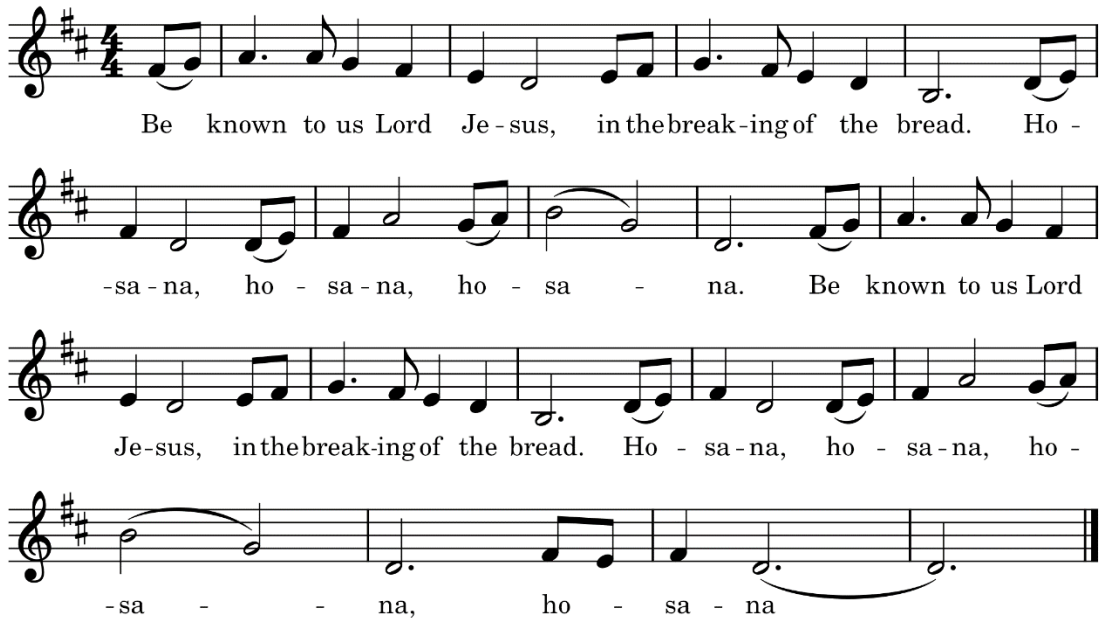
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, 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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | ELW 779

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 OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Christ:
Bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent
siblings. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we
bring this communion that we may all feast upon your abundant love made
known in Jesus Christ.

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

Beautiful Things | ACS 925

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: Pr. Colleen Nelson
Worship Coordinator: Liz Hardy
Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser
Children's Church: Barbara Gutzler
Communion Assistant:
Lector: Lee Anne Knapp

Musicians: Karl Gustafson,
Kristie Gladhill, Sanctuary Choir
Nursery Assistant: Janet Vorvick
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Geoff & Amy Harker
Welcome Team: Dana &
Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by John & Susan Reiser
in honor of their sixth wedding anniversary on March 14.*

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