

Living Water



Second Sunday of Creation

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

September 20, 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 of Creation

September 20, 2026 | 9:30 AM

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home. This year, we unite around the theme, "Living Water," inspired by Ezekiel 47:9, which says, "Every living creature that wanders upon the face of the earth will be drawn to the river and will find refreshment there. There will be an abundance of fish, for wherever these waters flow and everything they touch will be renewed." Each Sunday, we will gather around the water, which refreshes us and makes all Creation new.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

What brings you hope for the future of our planet?

During today's service, you are invited to reflect on the question listed above. You may write your answer(s) on a blue slip of paper, found in the basket at the end of your pew. You may place your slip of paper in the offering plate, and it will be added to the liturgical art on the altar for next week's service.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly | ELW 461

WATER COMMUNION INTRODUCTION

As a Christian community we are accustomed to regular participation in Holy Communion. In that sacrament, we are given a taste of Christ's table where all feast together, in peace, in loving relationship, and in justice. This morning we enter that story again, but from a different sacrament – the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The congregation turns to face the font.

“When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” (*Gen. 1:1-2*) We remember today, that Spirit of God sweeping over the waters – the waters through which all things were birthed. From and through a divine stirring, creation unfolds. From water, we are born. In the water, we are cleansed from sin and marked as children of God forever. As the Lakota people teach us, “Water is Life.”

Water reminds us of our limits –

without it, our lives and communities cannot be sustained.

Water reminds us of what refreshes and renews our bodies and souls, both spiritually and physically.

Water reminds us of our inseparability with all life.

With land and other creatures. With eras before us. And those yet to come.

Water reminds us of our basic dependence on this resource and on each other.

In our world today, our water is polluted for profit.

It is hoarded and privatized. But we all thirst.

We remember it is our responsibility to share and protect this Earth and its resources with all of God’s beloved creation.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

WATER COMMUNION RITUAL

This morning, as water is poured into the font, may we listen for God’s voice in the waters. As the waters from near and far are united as one, they remind us of our own connections – to the earth, to one another, and to God, our primary source of Life.

Let us pray together.

Creative One, we give you thanks for the wonder, power, and beauty of this Earth as you created it. How lucky we are to live as a part of this whole!

We ask your blessing upon the waters brought forth by this congregation and all the bodies of water they represent.

You have entrusted us to care for creation, for the earth, and for water.

Forgive us for the ways we mistreat this precious resource.

We acknowledge the injustice of keeping access to clean water in the hands of the privileged and greedy. We acknowledge the ways we take for granted our access to water. We acknowledge we hide from our dependency on this source and other natural elements from which we are born.

Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we betray the gifts of water and its relationship to all life.

As we bring our offerings from communities near and far, may we be reminded of how you weave our lives together, bodily, spiritually, relationally, ecologically.

May we remember our baptism.

May we remember our baptismal promise to resist evil together, our vocation to seek justice for all who thirst, and our calling to protect people and land from corporations who threaten to steal or pollute bodies of water. With joy and thanksgiving, we pray.

Amen.

Water from near and far is poured into the baptismal font.

Let us share in a time of holy silence, listening to the water.

A pitcher of water is poured into the font while the congregation listens.

Let us pray.

God of Ocean and Sea, River and Pond, Rain Drops and Morning Dew, what grace your presence is among us! Sanctify this and all water everywhere. May we live in gratitude, through posture and action. May we be faithful in returning land to its tenders, returning to right-relationship with our own creaturely bodies, and returning our attention to the protection of this planet. That life may flourish, locally and globally, for the healing of the nations.

Amen. May it be so!

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.

WORD

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

READING

Isaiah 44:2-4

A reading from Isaiah.

²Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you: Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

³For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon your descendants and my blessing on your offspring. ⁴They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing streams.

May the Word, as living water,
make everything live.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Put your roots down, put your feet on the ground you can hear what she says if you

1. li-sten 2. li-sten cause the sound of the riv-er as it

moves a-cross the stone is the same sound as the blood in your body as it

moves a-cross your bones Are you listening? Are you listening?

A reading from John.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

May the Word, as living water,
make everything live.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Rain from the Clouds | ELW 508

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation. We believe in God as the Source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee – who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in eternal life with God. And we believe in the hope that one day, God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation assumes a posture of prayer. You may kneel, sit, or stand; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or look to the altar.

**God of living waters,
refresh our spirits.**

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

As people of faith, we acknowledge that all we have flows from God. As stewards of God's resources, we open our hands in gratitude, allowing the gifts and resources we have received to flow through us and be shared with the world. At this time, I invite you to share a piece of your heart with this community. Please place any blue slips with responses to the reflection

question that you'd like to share along with your financial offerings in the plate as it is passed.

*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

*Living Water, Emily Crocker
Quartet*

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of creation, you send rain, and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you. Make us generous with what we have.

**Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

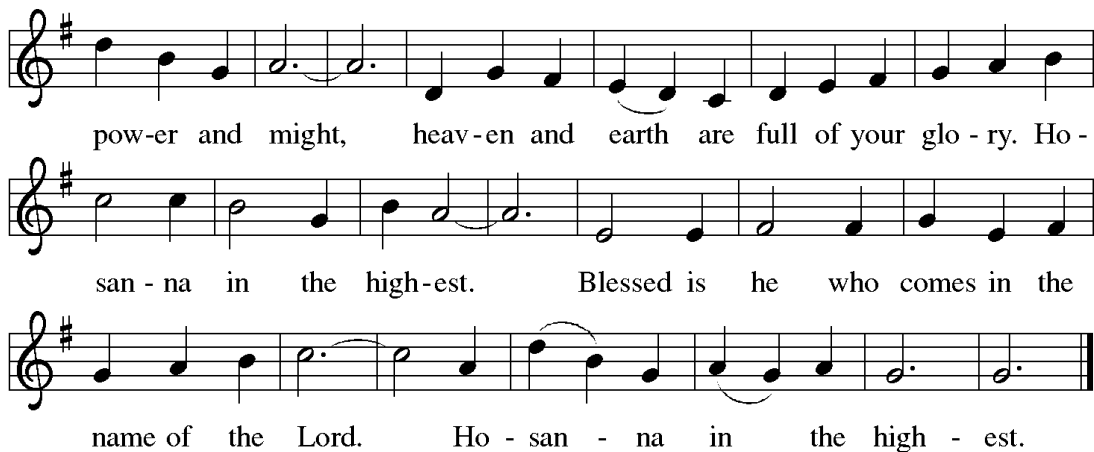
Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





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

Optional descant

Feed us jus - tice. Feed us your peace.

Feed us with hun-ger for jus-tice. Feed us with thirst for peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | ELW 502

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

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

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

May God our Creator, who brought water from the rock,
sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord, who is Living Water,
refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit,
who carries us on currents of grace, bring us to the day where justice
rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say | ELW 611

DISMISSAL

You have been named through the waters of baptism as Christ's own people.
Go in peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort

Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort

Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn

Altar Guild: Erin Castner

Children's Church: Tracie Semenchalem

Communion Assistant: Tammy Blanchard

Lector: Pat Christiansen

Musician: Karl Gustafson

Nursery Assistant: Fran Miller

Tech Team: Paul Navarre, Chase Isaacson

Ushers: Noelle Mehlhorn

Welcome Team: Kim Taylor-Blakemore

Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen

Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
Warren & Tammy Blanchard in celebration of their first wedding anniversary.*

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