

Living Water



Third Sunday of Creation

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

September 27, 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/

Third Sunday of Creation

September 27, 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

In what way do you feel called to live out our congregation's commitment to care for the world God made throughout this week, this month, or this year?

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

Morning Has Broken | ELW 556

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.

FIRST READING

Psalm 104:1-2, 10-15

A reading from the Psalms.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul; O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with majesty and splendor. ²You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and stretch out the heavens like a tent. ¹⁰You made the springs into rivers that flow between the mountains. ¹¹All the animals drink their fill from them, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹²Beside them the birds of the air make their nests; among the branches they lift their voice. ¹³From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works. ¹⁴You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve humankind; that they may bring forth food from the earth, ¹⁵wine to gladden human hearts, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

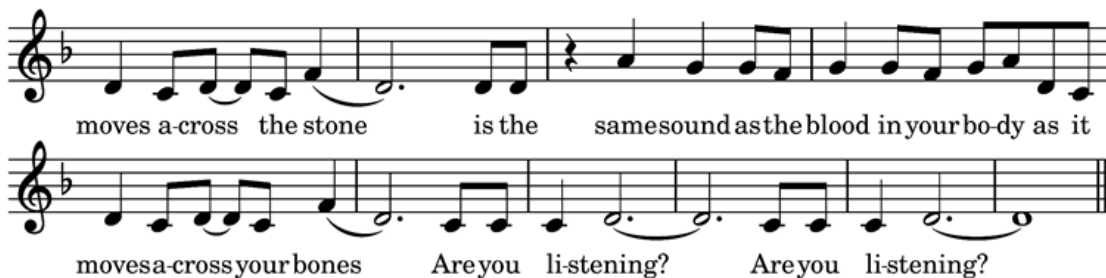
May the Word, as living water,
make everything live.

The congregation may stand.

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



SECOND READING

Revelation 7:13-17 from *The Inclusive Bible*

A reading from Revelation.

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These people in white robes — who are they, and where do they come from?” ¹⁴I answered, “You are the one who knows.” Then the elder said to me, “These are the ones who survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. ¹⁵That’s why they stand before God’s throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever. ¹⁶Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, ¹⁷for the Lamb, who is at the center of the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.”

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Jessica Putland

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring | ACS 1046

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.

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**

How Firm a Foundation, Tom Trenney
Sanctuary Choir, directed by John Gladen

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. 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

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 Lord's My Shepherd | ELW 778

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.

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

My Life Flows On in Endless Song | ELW 763

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. Jessica Putland
Assisting Minister:
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn
Children's Church: Cindy Stadel,
Sam Staat
Communion Assistant:
Lector: Kristie Gladhill

Musician: Karl Gustafson
Nursery Assistant: Sonja Ackman
Tech Team: Janet Vorvick, Chase Isaacson
Ushers:
Welcome Team:
Worship Coordinator: Beth Johnson
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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