

Living Water



Fourth Sunday of Creation

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

October 4, 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 of Creation

October 4, 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.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

For the Wholeness of the Earth | ACS 1067



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Holy God, by your will you brought all things into being through the waters. With your love and goodness, you sustain all creation. We praise you for the gift of water.

Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

Jesus Christ, you revealed yourself in solidarity with the human race, for you, O Son of God, appeared on Earth to dwell with us. You are the true water of life.

Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

Holy Spirit, on the day of Christ's baptism you descended on the waters in the likeness of a dove. You lead us to return to our own baptism and, like water, you sustain us.

Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

Be present now, Holy Trinity. Make this water a symbol of redemption, and of grace. Bless all waters, in all places, for the healing of creation.

Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kim Taylor-Blakemore

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1, 10-12

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

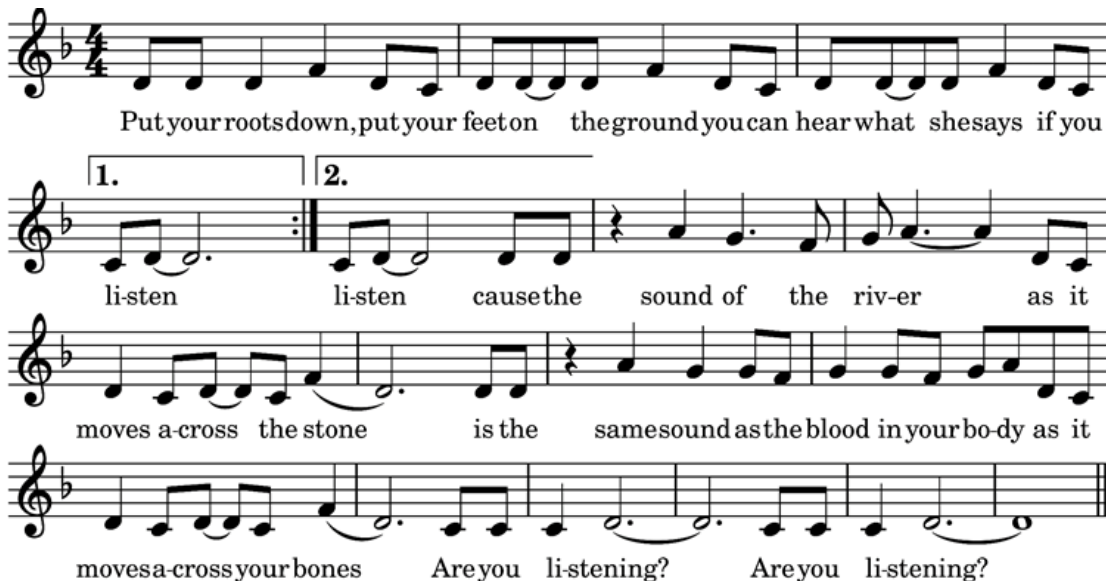
¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the

hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

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

moves a-cross your bones Are you li-stening? Are you li-stening?

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:1-2

A reading from Revelation.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Kim Taylor-Blakemore

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I've Got a River of Life Flowing within Me



1. I've got a ri-ver of life flow-ing with-in me; It
2. I've got a riv-er of life flow-ing with-in me; It
3. Once I call his name there's a flow with-in; It



make the lame to walk and the blind to see. It o-pens pri-son doors, sets the
start-ed gush-ing up when God set me free. That I keep the flow is my
turns me from my day, makes Him Lord a-gain. As my spi-rit burns, ev-il

Chorus



cap-tives free. I've got a riv-er of life flow-ing with-in me. Spring up O
on-ly pea. I've got a riv-er of life spring-ing with-in me.
can-not win. Call-ing "O Lord Jes-us," keeps the flow with-in.



well, with-in my spi-rit! Rise up and tell, so all can hear it! Spring up, O



well, so I ex-pe-rience that life a-bun-dant-ly.

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 place 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**

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.

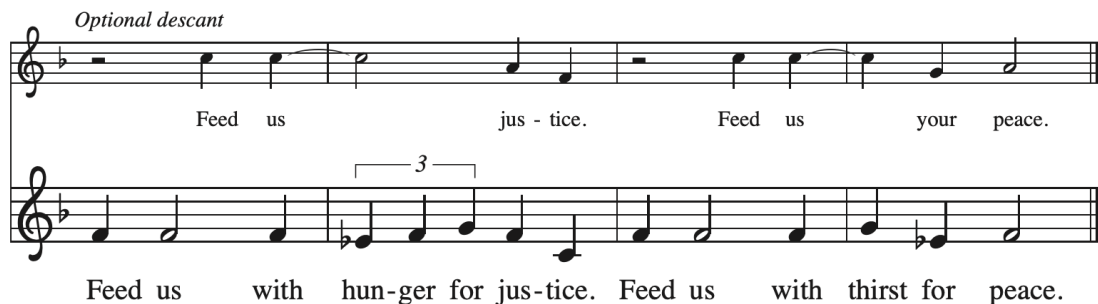
The congregation is seated.

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

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom | ACS 1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
 2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
 3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,
 from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
 Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
 live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

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

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

The Trees of the Field

♩

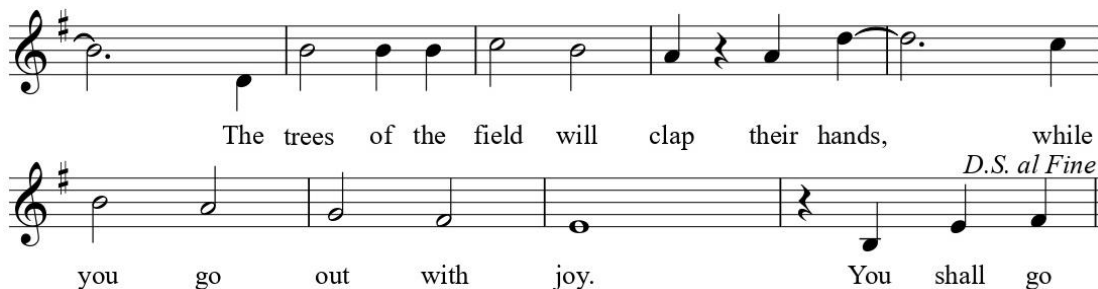
You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.

The mountains and the hills will break forth be -

fore you; There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will

clap, will clap their hands. *Fine* And all the trees of the field will

clap their hands, the trees of the field will clap their hands;



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

Sanctuary of the Firs Worship Services

Presiding Minister: Pr. Colleen Nelson
Preacher: Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Assisting Minister: Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Altar Guild: Susan Reiser
Lector: LuAnn Staul

Musician: John Gladen
Tech Team: Paul Navarre, Chase Isaacson
Worship Coordinator: Beth Johnson
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

Sanctuary (Indoor) Worship Services

Presiding Minister: Pr. Susan Kintner
Assisting Minister: Gordon Teifel
Altar Guild: Susan Reiser

Lector: Gordon Teifel
Musician: Karl Gustafson

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Reiser.

"For the Wholeness of the Earth," the COMMUNION SONG, and "Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom" are used with permission from One License. "The Trees of the Field" is used with permission from CCLI. "I've Got a River of Life Flowing within Me" is 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. Portions of the liturgy are adapted from "Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2026" released by the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee. Other portions of the liturgy are taken from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.