

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

November 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/

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 | 9:30 AM

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope – word, water, bread, and wine – eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN — Christ, Be Our Light | ELW 715

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.
Righteous God, our merciful landowner, the earth and all its peoples are yours, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Liberator and Lord. 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.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

7Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD
has prepared a sacrifice, and has consecrated the guests.

12At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will
not do good nor harm." 13Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses
laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though
they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

14The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of
the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15That day will be
a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a
day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16a day of
trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.

17I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk without sense;
because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out
like dust and their flesh like dung. 18Neither their silver nor their gold will be
able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of divine passion
the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end God will make of
all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

1Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2**Before the mountains were brought forth,**
or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

3You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
4**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

5you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6**in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8**Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

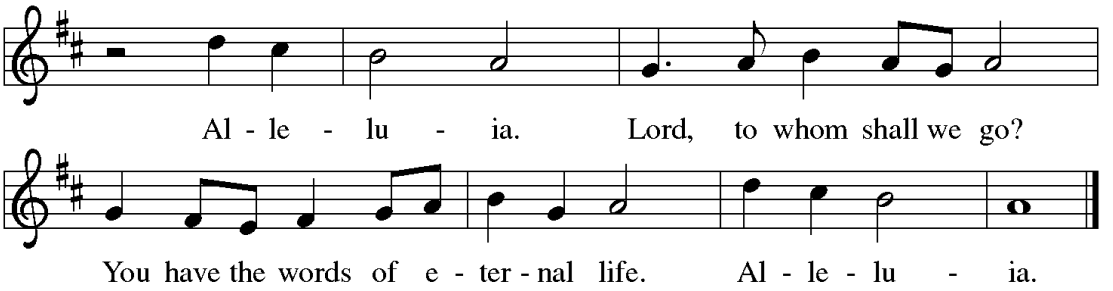
A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, siblings, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant person, and there will be no escape! 4But you, siblings, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said to the disciples: [14]"For it is as if a landowner, going on a journey, summoned three workers and entrusted the property to them; [15]to one the landowner gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to each's ability. Then the landowner went away. At once [16]the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid the landowner's money. [19]After a long time the landowner returned and settled accounts with the workers. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'You handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21]The landowner replied, 'Well done, good and trustworthy worker; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into my joy.' [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'You handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] The landowner replied, 'Well done, good and trustworthy worker; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into my joy.' [24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'I knew that you were a harsh person, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have

what is yours.' [26]But the landowner replied, 'You wicked and lazy worker! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from this worker, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless worker, throw this one into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

The congregation is seated.

SERMON Pr. Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY As Saints of Old | ELW 695

The congregation may assume 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

During this time of offering, we join Christ in turning the values of the world upside down. The world tells us that our money is ours alone, but we know that our wealth comes from God and is meant for the flourishing of the whole community. Therefore, we choose to be generous, sharing our resources with one another.

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 Bells of Grace, directed by John Gladen

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Liberator and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Our Creator is here.
God is here, among us and within us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them with all creation.

Let us give thanks to God, our Maker.
With every living thing, we give God thanks and praise.

Before there was a word for God, there was light.
Before there was a name for creation, there was water moving over the deep.
You spoke, and the world became. You breathed, and life began.
You called creation good and called us to belong to it.
For the gift of life, we give you thanks.

Yet we have forgotten our belonging. We have imagined ourselves separate from the soil beneath us, the water within us, the creatures beside us.
We have mistaken ownership for belonging and consumption for abundance.
Still, your grace flows: like rain on dry ground, like rivers finding their way to the sea, like seeds breaking open in darkness.
Grace upon grace. Gift upon gift. Life upon life.

Then you came among us. Not as an idea, but as flesh. Skin and bone.
Blood and breath. Dust and divinity. Jesus walked the earth, watched birds and flowers, scattered stories like seeds, welcomed strangers, touched bodies, and wept. He entered our violence and carried it to the cross.
And when we thought love had been buried, you showed us what creation already knows: The seed must break open. Winter does not last forever.
Life can rise from a grave.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

So we proclaim with all creation, with morning light, rivers and forests, salmon swimming upstream, birds crossing continents,
and oceans breathing with the moon:
Holy, holy, holy! Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!

And now you meet us in things we can touch:
grain, grapes, water, hands, bodies, breath.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread and said: "This is my body, given for you." And he took the cup: "This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin." Do this for the remembrance of me.
We remember.

Holy Spirit, wind of God, breath within breath, move among us. Move through this bread and wine. Move through our bodies, our grief and our hope. Open our hands. Loosen our grip. Teach us to receive, to share, and to notice the sacredness of what is ordinary.
Breath in us, Spirit of God.

Make us people who know that no one is disposable.
No neighbor. No stranger. No creature. No river. No forest.
Everything belongs to you. And everything belongs together.

When we leave this table, send us back into the world not as owners, but as guests; not as conquerors, but as companions; not as people who have all the answers, but as people willing to listen.

And when we forget,
remind us.

When we become afraid,
remind us.

When we become cynical,
remind us of resurrection.

For you are the God who creates, the Christ who enters creation,
and the Spirit who renews it. All that we are, all that lives,
and all that is yet to be belongs to you.
And so we give you thanks—
with our bodies, with our voices, with our lives, and will all creation,

now and forever.
Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past | ELW 632

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. 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 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

The holy Trinity, Creator, ☩ Christ, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ | ELW 674

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Altar Guild: Liz Hardy
Children's Church: Lindsay Delaney
Communion Assistants:
Greeters: Patty Jones, Donna McAlpine, Dana Taylor-Blakemore
Lector: Pat Christiansen
Musicians: Karl Gustafson, accompanist; John Gladen, Minister of Music
Nursery Assistant: Sonja Ackman
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Ed & Linda Fransen
Worship Coordinator: Pam Jelineo
Zoom Host:

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