



**+ The Nativity of our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021**



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
304 Morewood Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
St_andrewELCA@verizon.net
www.standrewpittsburgh.org



+ The Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Eve Order for Worship

On one of the deepest nights of our winter, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:

- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along quietly, until the Sending Hymn, when we invite the congregation to sing with masks on.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms.
By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.***

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Prelude

Gathering

Please rise as you are able.

Christmas Proclamation

P: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed humanity in God's own image;

long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds
as a sign of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt
and Miriam danced in freedom;

eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week, according to the prophecy of Daniel;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;

the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

in the sixth age of the world, the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months having passed since his
conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
v. 1-3

ELW 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

Venite adoremus,
venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2. Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading – Isaiah 9: 2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Hymn

Silent Night! Holy Night!
v. 1-2

ELW 281

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Gospel – Luke 2: 1-20

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

At the conclusion of the hymn

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Hymn

Silent Night! Holy Night!
v. 3

ELW 281

- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please rise as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958.

Prayers of the People

P: Joining our voices with the heavenly chorus, the shepherds, and the Christian faithful across all time and distance, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.

An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.

Please be seated as the table is prepared for Holy Communion.

Meal

Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. Good and loving God,

C: we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...
... and join their unending hymn.

Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life ...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup ...
We look with hope for Christ's coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours ...
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

Fraction and Invitation

***Agnus Dei* / Lamb of God**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *Please use hand sanitizer prior to receiving Communion.*
- *We will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *Worshippers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion wafers (regular and gluten-free) have been thoughtfully prepared using the gifts of the congregation by a member of St. Andrew's altar care team, with a drop of wine or grape juice on each. The presiding minister will distribute one to each communicant from the ciborium using sanitary tongs.*
- *When you reach the presiding minister, please indicate if you would like grape juice or a gluten-free wafer.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*
- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the elements, and then promptly replace your mask.*

Hymns during Holy Communion

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

Hymns during Holy Communion

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905.

Hymns during Holy Communion

The First Noel v. 1-2

ELW 300

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional. Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901.

When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Prayer

P: Let us pray.
Radiant God, we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.

May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people,
revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Sending

Benediction

P: Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World v. 1-2

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God!

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Piano

Organ

Cantor

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai

Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer

Timothy Kocher-Hillmer

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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