



+ Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
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+ Third Sunday of Advent Order for Worship

*Christ's presence in our midst, the nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved.
Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

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 silently.
- 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.***

Welcome

Prelude

Gathering

Please rise as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's tender mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: In the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

**We falter in our call to tend your creation
and to care for our neighbors.**

We fear those different from ourselves.

We seek identity and security through material wealth.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season of Advent is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness in the Northern Hemisphere strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is intended as an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, and/or the wheel of time.

Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath – as we gather in worship as a congregation each week, we progressively light the candles of the wreath and pray together.

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of salvation, for you promise to hear our prayers, move us beyond our troubles, and gather us together to our home in you.

As we light this candle, turn us again to you, that we may bear fruits worthy of repentance and know the joy that comes from your presence in our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: O beloved people of the Lord, come,

C: Let us rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

*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

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

v. 1, 4

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.**

- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see**

**the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!**

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,
and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation,
we may bring forth the fruits of repentance;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
the Lord has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness,
the Lord will renew you in God's love;

the Lord will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 12: 2-6

*The responsive reading from the prophet Isaiah will be led by the lector,
with congregation responding with the verses indicated in bold.*

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading – Philippians 1: 3-11

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation (*Spoken*)

**C: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you,
who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

Gospel – Luke 3: 7-18

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please rise as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

**Prepare the Royal Highway
v. 1, 3-4**

ELW 264

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Franz Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847, tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish Folk tune, 17th cent.
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Prayers of the People

P: Strengthened by God's promises through Jesus Christ,
we pray for all people and places who yearn for God's presence.

After each petition

P: Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of new life, you come among us in places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Focus on Joy in God's Presence among Us

Pastor Paul Koch

The prophet Zephaniah calls to God's people: "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!" for God is in their midst. Isaiah's prophetic message is much the same: "Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. The apostle Paul writes to the church at Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." This theme of joy that runs throughout the third Sunday of Advent comes from the presence of God among the people. We are invited to consider: How do you experience God's presence and joy at St. Andrew? How will I contribute to the joy that comes from God's presence in fuller measure through the ministries of St. Andrew?

*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.
At this time, the table is prepared for Holy Communion*

Meal

Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of our watching and waiting,

**C: we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.**

**Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.**

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.*

Hymn during Holy Communion

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

*Wait for the Lord is a hymn in the style of the Taizé community,
featuring a simple verse repeated multiple times to aid in meditation.*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

Text: Taizé Community. Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. Text © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

Hymn during Holy Communion

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905

- 1 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

- 2 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957. Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen. Text and Music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

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. God for whom we wait,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Sending

Benediction

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God!

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Piano

Cantor

Lector

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai

Kristen Asplin

Kelly Spaninger

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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