



**+ Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 2022**



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
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## **+ Fourth Sunday of Advent Order for Worship**

*Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and will name him Emmanuel. The Gospel this week is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the "O Antiphons," ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this last Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

- Masks are optional at St. Andrew when Covid-19 community level in Allegheny County is in the low and medium categories.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the back of the sanctuary.

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

### ***Welcome to St. Andrew!***

- *Everyone is invited to make a nametag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like.*
- *Children are invited to participate in Little Church; Big Faith, a Bible lesson and activity, following the Prayer of the Day.*
- *Worship "toolkits" to help children engage with the service are available in the black bookcase at the back of the worship space. There are "reader" and "pre-reader" resources available in each kit. Please feel free to use the kits for/with your children during worship.*
- *St. Andrew has recently returned to serving the sacrament of Holy Communion with both (separate) elements, bread and wine/grape juice. The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center aisle.*
- *A restroom is available on the main level of the church, through the doors to the Social Hall and to the right in the main office.*

## Welcome

## Prelude

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God's name forever.  
Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.  
We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire  
and set us again on your way of love,  
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
and welcome your coming among us.  
Amen.**

P: People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch, a living sign.  
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on ✝ Christ,  
and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**C: Amen.**



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



- Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



- un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## 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.**

## Kyrie

HS p. 3

A: In peace, in peace,

*Refrain*

Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
mer - cy.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Assistant and the second and third staves are for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and some held over from the previous measure.

A: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all ... (*Refrain*)

A: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word ... (*Refrain*)

Assistant: Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God.  
A - - - men.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Assistant and the second staff is for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and some held over from the previous measure.



## Word

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### First Reading – Isaiah 7: 10-16

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

*The cantor will lead the singing of the psalm.  
The congregation is invited to respond with the alternate verses in bold print,  
and to join in singing the refrain.*

*Psalm tone*



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*Psalm refrain*



Psalm 80:7  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph <sup>1</sup>like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- <sup>1</sup>on the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup>and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup>come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your people pray? R**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**  
**the one you have made so strong for yourself.**  
<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
 give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**  
**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. R**

**Second Reading – Romans 1: 1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which God promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning God’s Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Word of God, word of life.  
 C: Thanks be to God.

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia*

HS p. 8

Marty Haugen

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord to whom shall we go?  
 5 You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al - le- lu - ia.



## Gospel – Matthew 1: 18-25

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

*A time of silence for prayer and reflection follows the sermon.  
When the hymn of the day begins, please rise as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

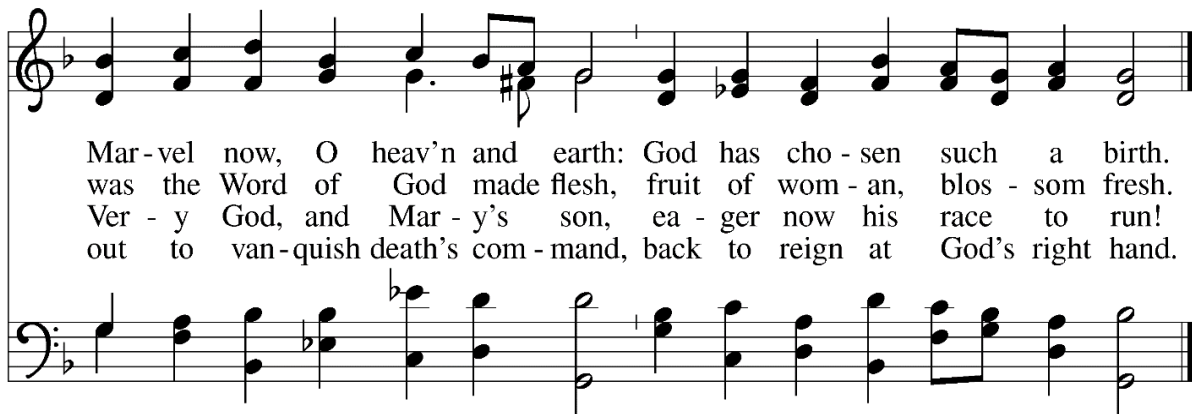
**Savior of the Nations, Come**

*Following Page*





1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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## Prayers of the People

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence,  
 let us pray for the world as it yearns for new hope.

*After each petition*

P: God, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with those of all your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## Meal

### Offering

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

*An usher will pass around an offering plate for anyone who would like to offer gifts before God.*

### Music during the Offering

*Please rise as you are able.*

### Offertory Song

### As the Grains of Wheat

*ELW 465*

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The second and third staves contain the main body of the song. The fourth staff has two verses of lyrics. The fifth staff is also labeled 'Refrain'.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. Eternal God,

**C: you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.**

**Receive these simple gifts we offer,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your justice and healing.**

**We ask this through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## Dialogue

HS p. 14

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The parts alternate between the Presider and the Congregation.

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with

*Presider:* you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

*Presider:* lift them to the Lord. Let us give

*Congregation:* thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

## Preface (Sung by the presiding minister)

P: It is our duty and delight ...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Sanctus

HS p. 15

Marty Haugen  
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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might;—

5 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est!

10 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

13 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line starts with a 7-measure rest. The second line begins at measure 5 and includes a 3/8 time signature change. The third line begins at measure 10. The fourth line begins at measure 13 and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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## 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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

C:

Congregation:

Christ has died. Christ is

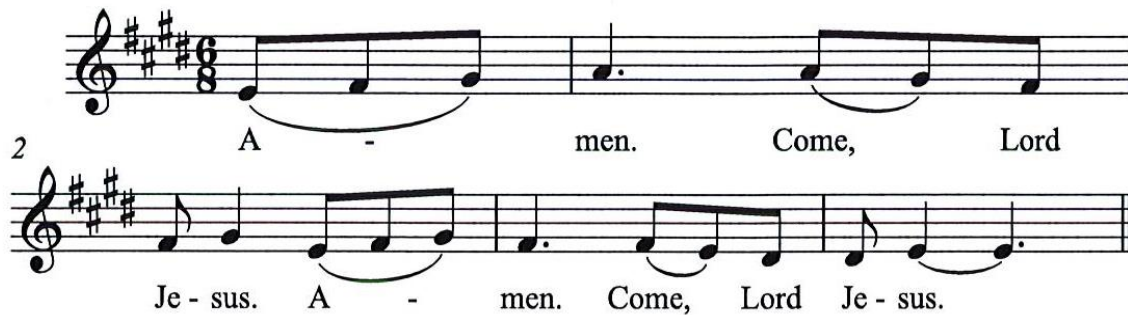
ris - en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

The musical score is written on two treble clef staves in the key of D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The first staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'Christ has died. Christ is'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'ris - en. Christ will come, come a - gain.' The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns with some slurs and accents.

P: With this bread and cup we remember ...  
... We look with hope for his coming.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

C:



2 A - men. Come, Lord  
Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

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

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

C:



*Congregation:*  
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A -  
men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

C:



A - men.

## 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

HS p. 18

Marty Haugen

4 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have  
 you are the bread of life for us all:

8 mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.

11 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

## Holy Communion

- *Worshippers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *Holy Communion will be served with bread and wine/grape juice.*
- *The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host) to each communicant. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free host.*
- *Once you have consumed the bread, please pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass.*
- *Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice.*

- As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center aisle.
- A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament.
- All are invited to join in singing the hymns during Holy Communion.

## Hymn during Holy Communion

### Unexpected and Mysterious v. 1, 3

ELW 258



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.



# Hymn during Holy Communion

## We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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## Hymn during Holy Communion

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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

## Blessing

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Hymn of Thanksgiving

HS p. 20

*Congregation:*



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



3. Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

## Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we await the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future coming to birth in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sending

### Announcements

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Benediction

P: God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**C:**



## Sending Hymn

## Soon and Very Soon

*Following page*

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Sending Hymn**

**Soon and Very Soon**

*ELW 439*



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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## *Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

A: Assistant (Cantor)

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***HS: Hymnal Supplement***

***ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal***

***ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal***

### *Those serving in worship today*

Minister of Music

Clarinet

Cantor

Lector and Communion Assistant

Presiding Minister

Laura Reynolds

Maria Mangano

Ian Brown

Michael Chapman

Rev. Ross Carmichael

### *Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** – Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah** – Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954. Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**Unexpected and Mysterious** – Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984. Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements**  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- **Worship in the Sanctuary and Online – Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, + Fourth Sunday of Advent** – St. Andrew’s next worship with Holy Communion will be this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Masks are optional at St. Andrew when Allegheny County’s Covid-19 community level is in the low and medium categories. Worship will also be live-streamed to Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom. Worship attendees are invited to make their own name tags at the back of the worship space. Coffee hour will be held in the Social Hall next to the sanctuary after worship.
- **Seeking Individuals to Serve in Various Worship Roles** – As worship attendance increases and we return to distribution of wine at Holy Communion, we ask people of St. Andrew to consider offering your gifts in worship. On the upcoming Sundays, we will pass around a signup sheet describing different roles needed, including altar care and setup, Communion Assistant, Audio/Visual Minister, Adult Leader or Helper for Little Church; Big Faith, Usher, Cantor, Lector, and Counter. Please consider how best to share your gifts to enrich the worship experience of St. Andrew!
- **Help Decorate the Church for Christmas Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, after Worship!** – We invite everyone to stay after worship this Sunday as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!
- **Christmas Worship Schedule:**  
**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.** – Worship with Candlelight and Holy Communion  
**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.** – Worship with Holy Communion
- **Little Church; Big Faith Will Not Meet during Worship on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve; Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day; or Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, First Sunday of Christmas. We will resume the Bible lesson and activities during worship on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- **We will not have Coffee Hour on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>, or January 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Humor and the Bible – Come and Discuss in the New Year!** – Is there humor in the Bible? Isn't it a pious look at life that inspires us and places us in awe of God? Doesn't the Bible contain instructions for life's do's and don'ts? Doesn't the Bible give us warnings and signs of hope? Perhaps all these things are true, but if we can suspend our piety, our past notions or suspicions about the Bible, we just might hear and experience a humorous side of the Bible we hadn't appreciated before. We might even laugh! In our upcoming Zoom discussion, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Paul Koch will lead us in looking more closely at various passages throughout the Bible that might surprise you, make you smile, or even bring a laugh or two. Imagine finding humor in the Creation stories, the end of Daniel, or hearing some of Jesus' sayings in a humorous (or at least a little sarcastic) way! Zoom login information is now available in your “This Week at St. Andrew” email - log on, and enjoy!
- ***Christ in our Home* Current Devotional Booklets for the Next Quarter (January - March 2023) Available at Church Entrances** – *Christ in our Home* is a booklet that offers a daily Bible reading with a short reflection and prayers, long with additional prayer concerns and readings for those who would like to expand their devotional

practices. These are available at each entrance to the church, and we encourage people of the congregation to take one for yourself and others!

- **Bethel AME Pittsburgh Updates** – Our friends at Bethel AME are collecting clean, gently worn/used **Winter** clothing of all sizes. Items can be left on the table next to the pantry shelves in St. Andrew's Social Hall.