



**+ Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30, 2023**



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
304 Morewood Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
[St\\_andrewELCA@verizon.net](mailto:St_andrewELCA@verizon.net)  
[www.standrewpittsburgh.org](http://www.standrewpittsburgh.org)



## + Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

*As Solomon, a king of Israel, prayed for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that is secretly added and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God finds us first!*

### Welcome to St. Andrew!

- St. Andrew Lutheran congregation welcomes all who are seeking a place of healing and wholeness – a nurturing, faith-forming spiritual home. Our community embraces people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and family constellations. Come and See!
- Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms. By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.
- Everyone is invited to make a nametag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like. There are stickers indicating pronouns on the bookcase if you would like to include them on your name tag.
- Worship “toolkits” to help children engage with the service, along with “busy bags” for younger children, are available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- Holy Communion is served with bread (gluten-free available) and wine or grape juice. The presiding minister will distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray. The Communion Assistant will pour wine or grape juice into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. Feel free to kneel at the altar for prayer and reflection. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.
- 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.

#### *Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister  
A: Assisting Minister  
L: Lector  
**C: Congregation**

**ACS: All Creation Sings** hymnal  
**ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship** hymnal  
**W&P: Worship and Praise** hymnal

## Pre-Service Music

### Welcome

### Prelude

## Gathering

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

### Confession and Forgiveness

*Please rise as you are able.  
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.  
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,  
C: we confess that we have sinned.  
We have hurt our community.  
We have squandered your blessings.  
We have hoarded your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
We have failed to be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken falsely.  
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.  
C: Amen.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## 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. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, you bring us into your reign of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

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

### First Reading – 1 Kings 3: 5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

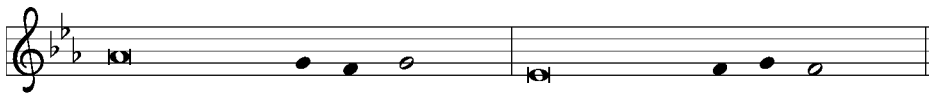
L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 119: 129-136

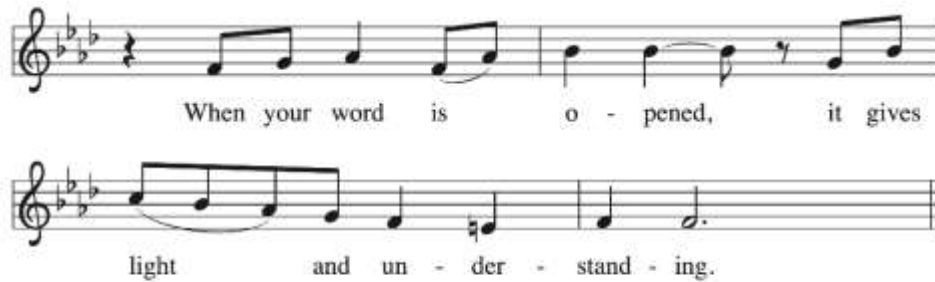
*The psalm will be led by the cantor, with the congregation invited to join in singing the alternate verses (in bold) and refrain.*

*Psalm tone*



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*Psalm refrain*



Psalm 119:130  
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- <sup>129</sup>Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- <sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple.**
- <sup>131</sup>I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.
- <sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,  
as you always do to those who | love your name. R**
- <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- <sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,  
and I will keep | your commandments.**
- <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant  
and teach | me your statutes.
- <sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching. R**

## Second Reading – Romans 8: 26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom God foreknew, God also predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom God predestined, God also called; and those whom God called, God also justified; and those whom God justified, God also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>The one who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who

justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson  
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**Gospel – Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52**

**P:** The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of



every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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    The Reign of God, Like Farmer’s Field**  
v. 2-5

*Following page*



Hymn of the Day The Reign of God, Like Farmer's Field  
v. 2-5

ACS 952

1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995

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Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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## Prayers of the People

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition*

A: Hear us, O God;

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers*

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation with you, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Peace

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people may greet those around them with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. Please be mindful that not everyone will be comfortable with sharing the peace, so please seek consent before shaking hands or hugging. Other possible ways to share the peace include a simple bow with the verbal greeting of peace, or simply a verbal expression of peace.*

*When the greetings of peace have concluded, please be seated.*



## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## Offering

*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.  
As the offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need,  
the table is set for Holy Communion.*

## Music during the Offering

*As the gifts are brought forward for presentation, please rise as you are able.*

### Offertory Song

ELW 680

#### Aramos nuestros campos / We Plow the Fields and Scatter



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor  
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.  
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma - no que laha - ce ger - mi - nar,  
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.  
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure - our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

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## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

**C: you are the giver of all good things.**

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 ...

... we praise your name 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, mighty, and merciful Lord ...

... to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, 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

- *All who seek God and desire a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*
- *Worshippers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *Please inform an usher if you would like the ministers to bring Communion to you.*
- *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.*
- *Feel free to kneel at the altar rail for prayer after receiving the sacrament.*
- *As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.*
- *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.

## Hymns during Holy Communion

### We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 518

*Refrain*



We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are  
giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-gether  
joined, the great-est and the least, we all are  
one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our  
2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and  
3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-  
gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-  
rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-



*Refrain*  
ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.  
par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.  
bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

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# Hymns during Holy Communion

## What Is the World Like

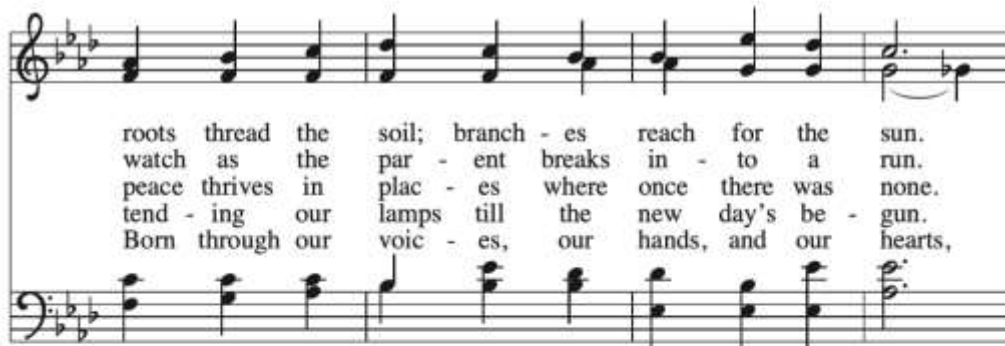
ACS 1047



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:  
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
this is a new world where God's will is done.



# Hymns during Holy Communion

## Come, Holy Spirit, Descend

ACS 980

\*Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, de - scend on us, de -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lower staff is in bass clef. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the upper staff.

scend on us. We gath - er here in Je - sus'

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It features a long note for 'Je' in the upper staff, which is tied to the next measure. The lyrics are printed below the upper staff.

name. (hm)

The third system of music concludes the piece. It features a long note for 'name.' in the upper staff, which is tied to the next measure. The lyrics are printed below the upper staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

### *\*Additional verses ad lib:*

- Come, Breath of heaven, . . .
- Come, Word of mercy, . . .
- Come, Fire of judgment, . . .
- Come, great Creator, . . .
- Come to unite us, . . .
- Come to disturb us, . . .
- Come to inspire us, . . .

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: BREATH OF HEAVEN, John L. Bell

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*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**

A: Let us pray.  
We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## **Announcements**

*Please rise as you are able.*

## **Benediction**

P: The God who calls across the cosmos  
and works through the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you,  
now and to the end of the age.  
C: Amen.

## **Sending Hymn**

## **Bring forth the Kingdom**

*Following page*

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God!

## **Postlude**

Leader  
D G/D D D/F# All  
G D/F# A D

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!  
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!  
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!  
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!

Leader  
G D/F# G A D All  
G D/F# A D

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!  
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!  
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!  
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!

Refrain  
G D/F# Em A D G D/F#

Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the

Em A D G D/F# G A D

king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,

G D/F# Em/G A D G D/F# A D

bring forth the cit - y of God!

*Those serving in worship today*

Altar Care  
Assisting Minister  
Audio-Visual Ministers  
  
Cantor  
Lector  
Minister of Music  
Preaching and Presiding Minister

Jodie Minor  
Tim Marker  
Jason Galyardt  
David Rollinson  
Joy Givens  
Michael Chapman  
Laura Reynolds  
Pastor Ross Carmichael

*Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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**Bring forth the Kingdom** – Matthew 5: 13-15; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text and music © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc. giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

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**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements**  
**July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- **Welcome to worship at St. Andrew on the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – We are so glad you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors and guests connecting for the first time! Worship attendees are invited to make a name tag at the back of the worship space if you would like. There are worship “toolkits” to help children engage with worship and “busy bags” for younger children available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- **August Produce Distribution – Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** – St. Andrew's monthly produce distribution in partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is coming up Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We invite people from the congregation to come and help in the evening (greeting our neighbors, assisting with the distribution, registration, and cleanup) and earlier in the day to set up tables and bring in the delivery, usually between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For anyone who signs up for the setup, we will notify you the day before when we are given the delivery truck's estimated arrival time. If you would like to sign up in advance, please do so here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F45AF2BA75-produce6>.
- **Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) Seeking Donations of Household Items** – Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) serves families experiencing hardship in our community. Their mission is to encourage the development of healthy families. They have been seeing an increase in requests for household items that people are not able to afford. Many necessities cannot be purchased with supplemental food benefits (SNAP). Macedonia FACE is seeking donations of **household items** such as **toilet paper and paper towels, shampoo/conditioner (Black haircare), soap, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning products (laundry soap, dish soap, disinfecting wipes)**. Items can be left on the table next to the pantry shelves in St. Andrew's Social Hall.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh (LCMGP) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner – Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:30 p.m. at Le Mont** – Join the LCMGP for its inaugural fundraising banquet as they celebrate the ministry's work in Greater Pittsburgh and among the universities of Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Chatham, and Carlow for over the past 75+ years. Learn more about LCMGP, purchase tickets, or make a donation [here](#).
- **St. Andrew Is Updating Information – Please Respond!** – St. Andrew is looking to update our records with information from newer attendees, as well as offering current members the opportunity to include current information. This includes name, preferred pronouns, email, phone number, birthdays, anniversaries, and more. The information will only be used within the congregation - for example to acknowledge celebrations and milestones in worship, in the prayers of the church, or in the weekly or monthly newsletter. Please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/fTwpdG2uA7pYD2ta8>.

## [Stand Up for Fairness for All Pennsylvanians](#)

This month, the nation's largest organization devoted to the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans [declared a "state of emergency"](#) in the U.S. amidst a growing number of dangerous and discriminatory policies. In Pennsylvania, more than half a million LGBTQ+ residents are vulnerable to discrimination every day because of a lack of express and enduring statutory protections at the state level. Tell your lawmakers it's time to make our Commonwealth a safe place for everyone to live, love and work as their authentic selves without fear of discrimination.



Pennsylvania remains the only state in the Northeast without an inclusive statewide nondiscrimination law. Passage of protections in Pennsylvania is a critical step to ensure LGBTQ people are treated with dignity in employment, housing, and public spaces.

[Contact your lawmakers here.](#)

[Sign up here to join fellow Lutherans working for protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and receive alerts about rallies and other opportunities to act. Please include FAIRNESS in the subject line.](#)

The seven Pennsylvania bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released a letter in support of legislation that would prohibit such discrimination.

"At this moment there is an opportunity for us to add our voices in support of legislation that could provide continuing legal protection for one particularly vulnerable group of our people," the bishops state in their letter "Fairness for All Pennsylvanians."

[Read the full letter.](#)

The letter points to the imagery of the "peaceable kingdom," described in Isaiah 11: 6, in which "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." The words anticipate a renewal of all creation in which the identity of each creature remains but none experiences any harm from the others. "It is the fulfillment of this vision for which people of faith yearn, and toward which they call their neighbors," the bishops say in the letter. "The work of public advocacy, at its best, replaces the timid silence of resignation to what is, with a bold voice giving expression to what could be."

*We recognize that the links above are not accessible on the printed page but we wanted to be sure to publish the information. Please see your "This Week at St. Andrew" email or scan the QR code above to access the clickable links. **Thank you for your Advocacy!***