

**+ Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**January 4, 2026**



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
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## + Second Sunday of Christmas Order for Worship

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

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

- St. Andrew welcomes all who are seeking a place of healing, wholeness, and acceptance in a nurturing and faith-forming spiritual home. We are striving toward racial equity worldwide and we seek to honor the lived experience of all individuals regardless of background. 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 name tag 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.
- A nursery is available through the doors at the left side of the sanctuary and across from the doorway to the Social Hall. Look for a purple-colored room.
- 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**

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

## Musical Offering

*Each week, different people from the congregation make an offering of pre-service music, with singing or instrumentation, to help the assembly focus and pray in preparation for worship.*

## Welcome

## Prelude

## Gathering

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

*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.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Reconciling God,

**C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love;**

**we have not always recognized your presence among us;**

**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge;**

**our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones;**

**our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

**Amen.**

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you.

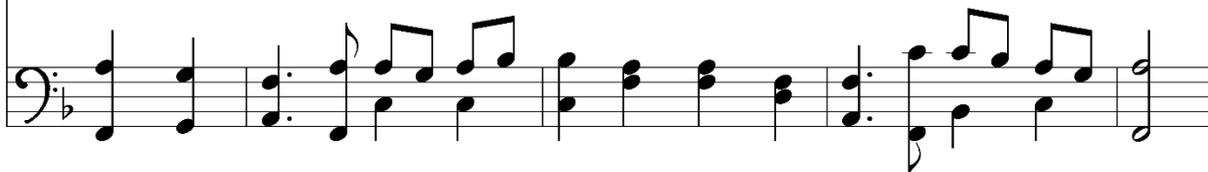
✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**C: Amen.**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



## Greeting

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

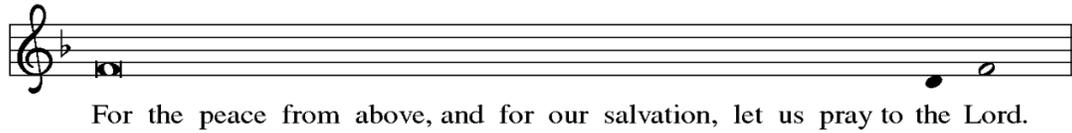
C: **And also with you.**

## Kyrie

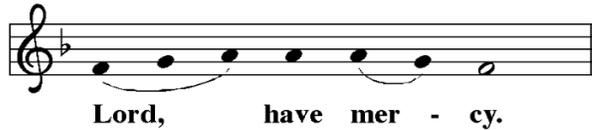
*ELW* p. 138



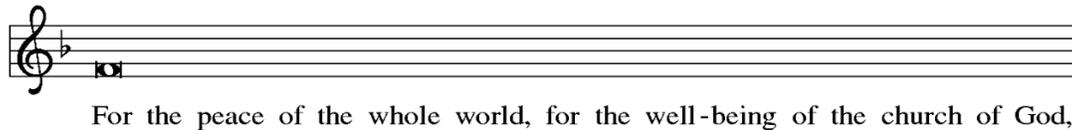
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



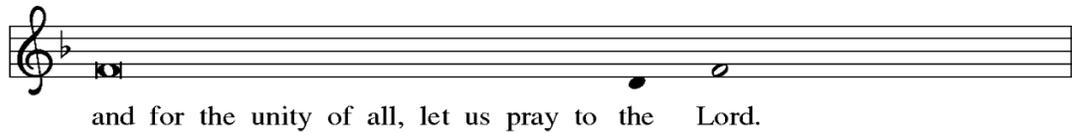
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



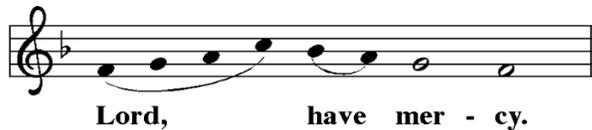
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



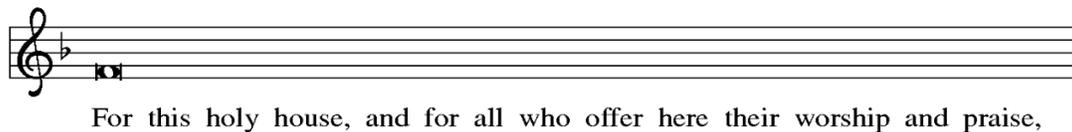
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



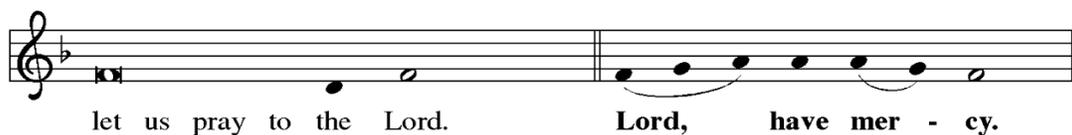
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



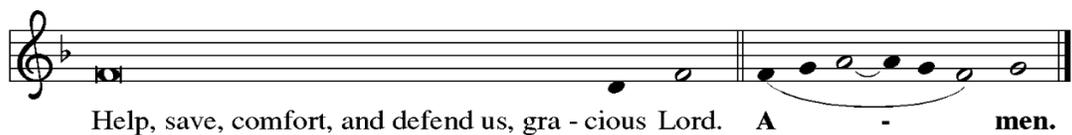
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit, comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Word**

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

### **First Reading – Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “The one who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.



<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any <sup>1</sup> other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! **R**

## Second Reading – Ephesians 1: 3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before God in love. <sup>5</sup> God destined us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of God's glorious grace that God freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> God has made known to us the mystery of God's will, according to God's good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to God's counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*ELW p. 142*



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

## Gospel – John 1: [1-9] 10-18

P: The holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

[<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The Word was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

ELW 510



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sr, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

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## Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

## **Prayers of the People**

A: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth,  
let us pray for the church, God's creation, and all who are in need.

*After each petition*

A: God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: With joy in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God,  
trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through 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.*

*There are laminated giving cards in the pew racks that feature a QR code for anyone who would like to give online. Those who give using the QR code, as well as those who give regularly online or through their bank are encouraged to place the laminated card in the plate as an expression of your offering.*

## **Reparations Offering**

*On the first Sunday of each month, St. Andrew invites people of the congregation to give a second offering for a reparations fund in acknowledgment of St. Andrew's use of African American spiritual songs in our worship services. Please see the note in the announcements for more information.*

## **Offertory Music**

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

Offertory Song

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## Offertory Prayer

A: 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.**

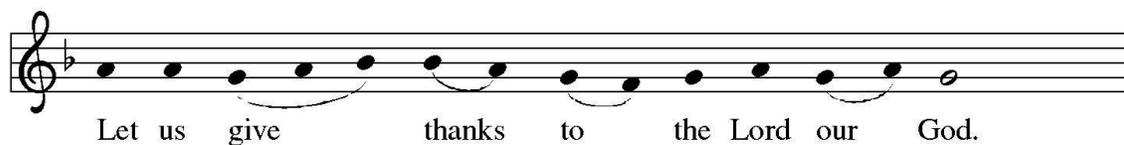
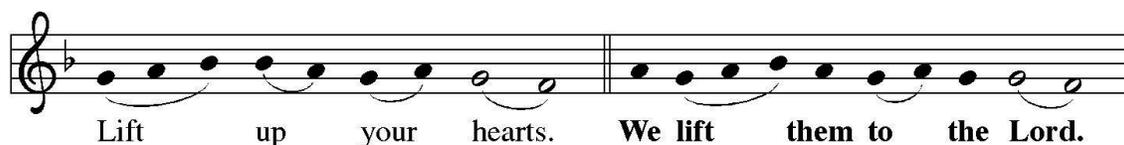
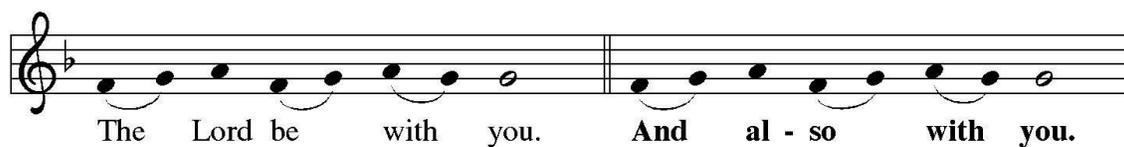
**With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,**

**we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Dialogue

*ELW p. 144*



## Preface *(Sung by the presiding minister)*

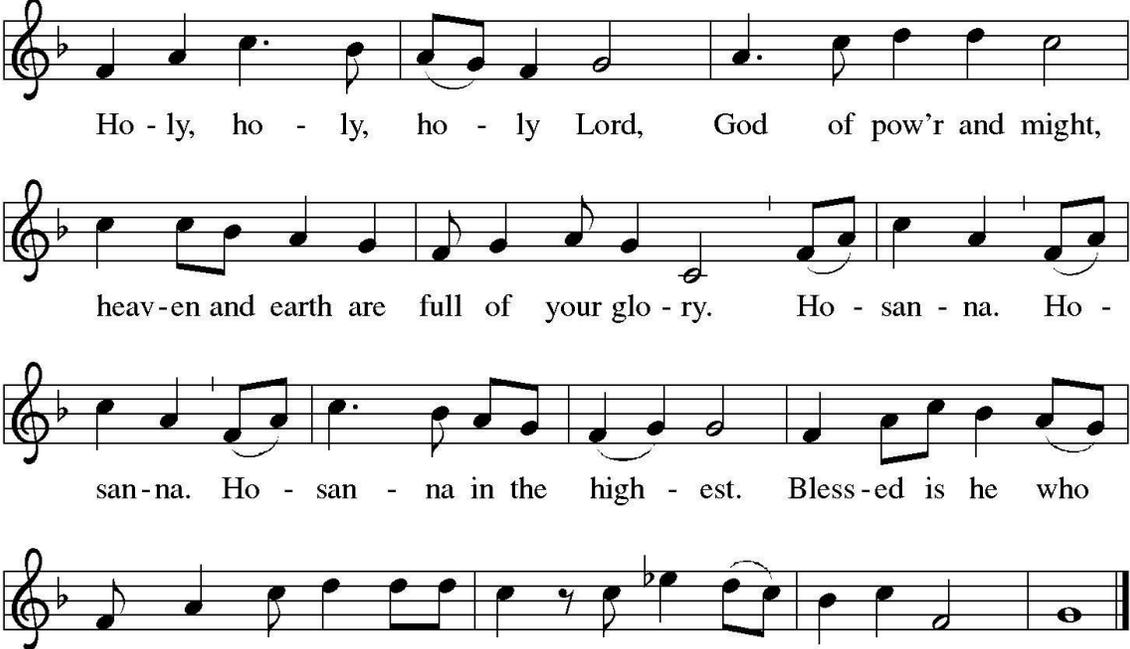
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh,  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

*ELW* p. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

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

P: 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 his 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,  
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,  
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.**

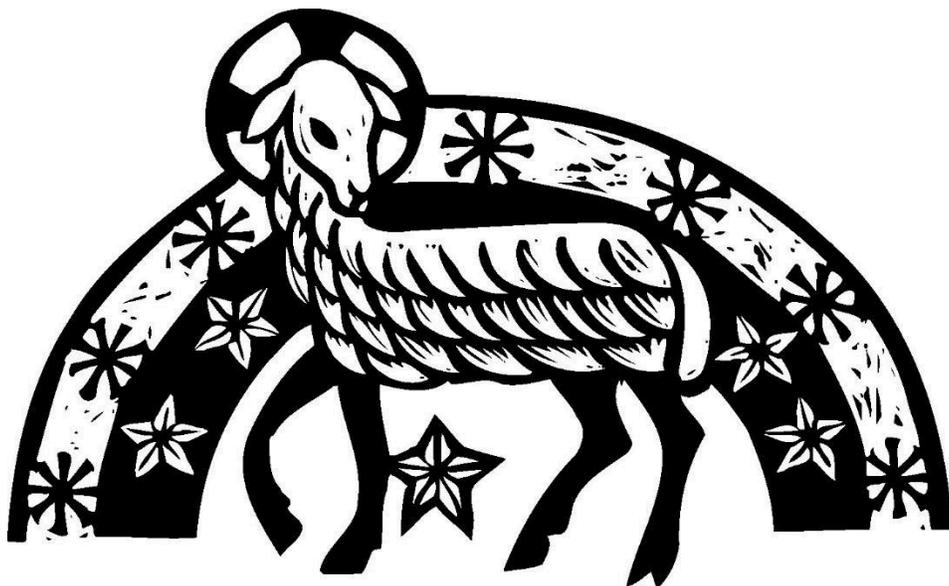
**Give us today our daily bread.**

**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**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way 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 (amber) or grape juice (purple).*
- *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 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 rail for prayer after receiving the sacrament.*
- *As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty tray on the 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

### Love Has Come

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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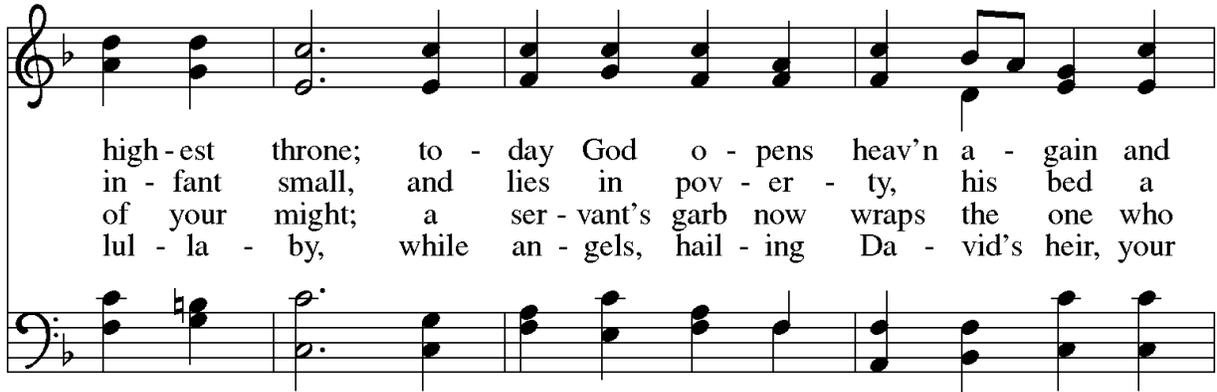
Hymns during Holy Communion

Let All Together Praise Our God

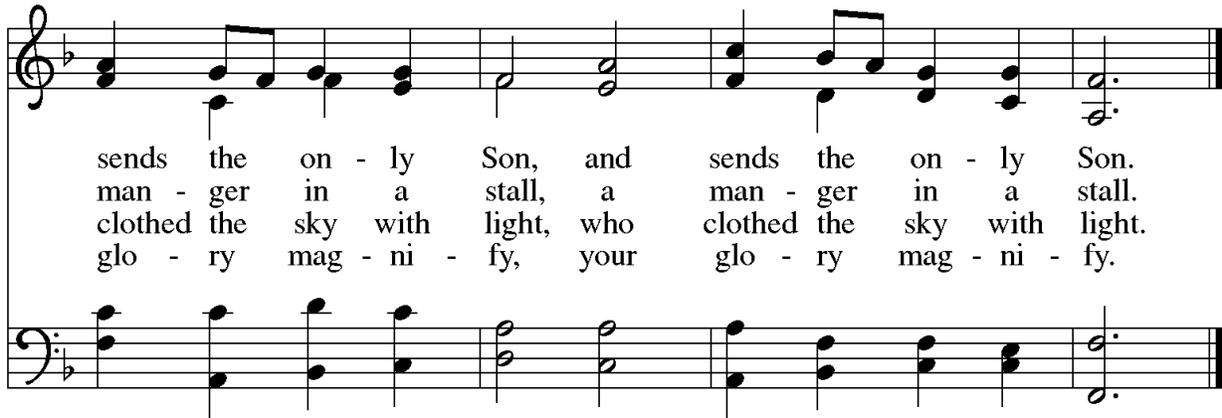
ELW 287



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:  
you take our flesh and blood,  
and in return give us to share  
the shining realm of God,  
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today  
that leads to paradise;  
the angel bars the way no more.  
To God let praises rise,  
to God let praises rise!

## Hymns during Holy Communion

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

*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.

## Nunc Dimittis



**C** Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Radiant God,

with our eyes 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sending

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

## Announcements

*Please rise as you are able.*

*On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Christian Church celebrates the Epiphany of our Lord. From a word for “manifestation,” Epiphany and the season that follows focus on the light of Christ revealed to people of all nations, as represented by the shining star at Jesus’ birth, and the Magi from the east who followed it to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn king. We move toward Epiphany with the reading of Matthew’s Gospel.*

### Epiphany Gospel – Matthew 2: 1-12

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Benediction

P: God bless you and keep you,

✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Holy Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

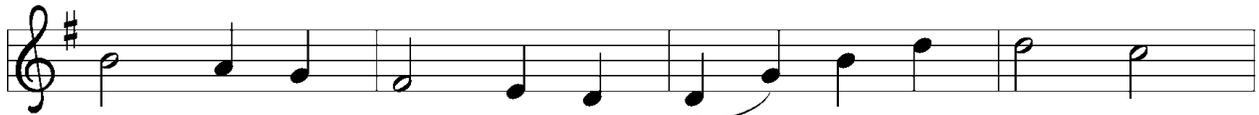
**C: Amen.**



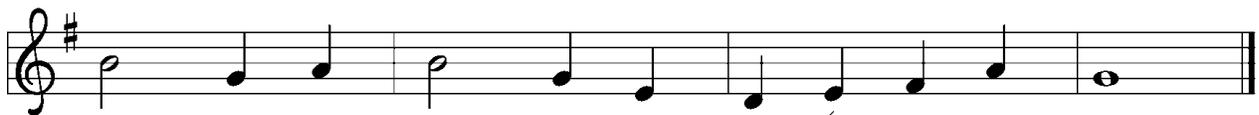
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

### *Serving in Worship Today*

Altar Care  
Assisting Minister  
AV Team

Cantor  
Lector  
Minister of Music  
Presiding Minister

Jodie Minor  
Jeff Denlinger  
Kristen Asplin  
Tyler Rietze  
Timothy Kocher-Hillmer  
Kelly Spaninger  
Laura Reynolds  
The Rev. Ross Carmichael

### *Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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**Let All Together Praise Our God** – Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

*Please use the QR code below to link to St. Andrew's Announcements online!*



### **St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements** **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

- **Welcome to Worship at St. Andrew on the Second Sunday of Christmas!** – We are thankful you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors and guests who are here for the first time! A nursery is available through the door to the left of the worship space and across the social hall (look for a purple room). There are also 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.

- **Little Church - Big Faith will resume on January 11th.**
- **Monthly Reparations Offering Today, January 4<sup>th</sup>, during Worship** – In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a compassionate Samaritan, suggesting that God’s people are called to work for healing and restoration for our neighbors, regardless of who or what caused them harm. In light of this, St. Andrew has made a commitment to reparations in regard to African American spiritual songs used in our worship. The text and music of most hymns is attributed to specific authors, with copyrights in place, usage reported, and royalties paid to those whose works are featured in worship. With African American spirituals, this is not possible. In response to many years of such uncredited use, St. Andrew invites the congregation to give a reparations offering. Funds received in worship will be donated to our siblings at Bethel AME Church, whose land and building were taken from them in the 1950s, to fund their development in the Hill District.
- **Help Take Down Christmas Decorations Today, January 4<sup>th</sup>** – Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season this past Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Though it is not as fun as decorating for Christmas, we also need help taking down and putting away all the decorations from the season. It is especially helpful to have people who can carry items downstairs to the basement. The Christmas season concludes with the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6<sup>th</sup>, so we will take down the Christmas decorations today. Thank you!
- **Volunteers needed with WPA BOLD Holiday Party, Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, after Worship** – For several years, the Western PA Blind Outdoor Leisure Development Organization (BOLD), has been holding their holiday parties at St. Andrew, and they will do so again on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm. The group has asked for volunteers from the congregation there that day to help set up (this can be done after coffee hour), greet members and help them to find seats, assist with serving buffet food, leading and helping people to get food, and cleanup. If you are willing to help, please speak with Pastor Ross. Thank you very much.
- **Produce Distribution Supplemental Food of the Month** – St. Andrew is collecting supplemental food each month to accompany our produce distribution. For January, we ask for donations of rice. There are collection boxes at the back of the worship space and social hall.
- **January Produce Distributions, First and Third Tuesday Each Month, January 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** – St. Andrew partners with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to serve as a distribution site for fresh produce on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Next month’s distributions will be on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We invite people of the congregation to help with the distribution from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and/or to help with unloading and setup during the day between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- **“Christ in Our Home” Booklets Available** – “Christ in Our Home” is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day. The January-March booklets are available at the entrances. Please feel free to take one home!
- **Coffee Hour Signups** – St. Andrew provides hospitality during a coffee hour after worship each Sunday. If you would like to participate and would like information about the duties of setting up, please sign up using the following form:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAFAF2CABF85-47069030-coffee#/>.
- **Prayer Team** – St. Andrew maintains a list of weekly prayer concerns. To opt in, or if you have a prayer request, please contact: [prayerteam@standrewpittsburgh.org](mailto:prayerteam@standrewpittsburgh.org).
- **Records Update** – St. Andrew is seeking to update our records with information to be used within the congregation for celebrations, milestones, and in prayers of the church. Please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/kKvp19UozuRrhhaV7>.