



+ First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024



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



+ First Sunday of Advent Order for Worship

A new church year begins with the season of Advent, a time of waiting, preparing, and hopeful expectation. God's people have always lived in expectation, but expectation of divine revelation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Humanity." With them we await God's coming among us: As Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us" at Christmas, in the second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and meal.

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 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.
- Children are invited to attend Little Church – Big Faith, a Bible lesson and activity, during worship (after the Prayer of the Day). The group returns to the worship space for the liturgy of Holy Communion.
- 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
ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Prelude

During the prelude, individuals from the congregation will come forward to light the candle(s) of the Advent wreath corresponding to the four Sundays of Advent.

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,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have trusted earthly powers and human authority alone.

We have grown fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us. Amen.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody
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Greeting

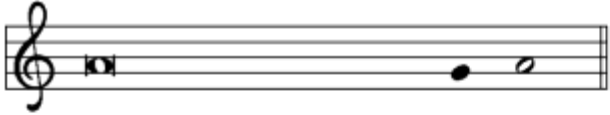
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

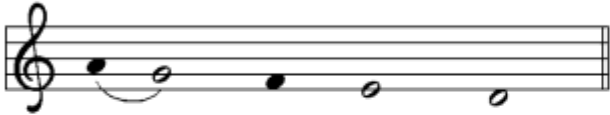
Kyrie

ELW p. 147

The cantor leads the singing of the Kyrie, with the congregation joining in the responses in bold.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



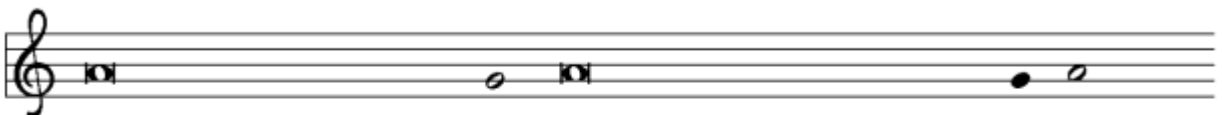
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins,
and redeem us for your life of justice,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

*Children are invited to join the adult leaders at the door and for Little Church – Big Faith.
We ask that one additional adult from the congregation attend with the children.*

Word

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

First Reading – Jeremiah 33: 14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25: 1-10

*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



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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Psalm refrain



Psalm 25:1
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. R**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. R**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰ All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may God so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

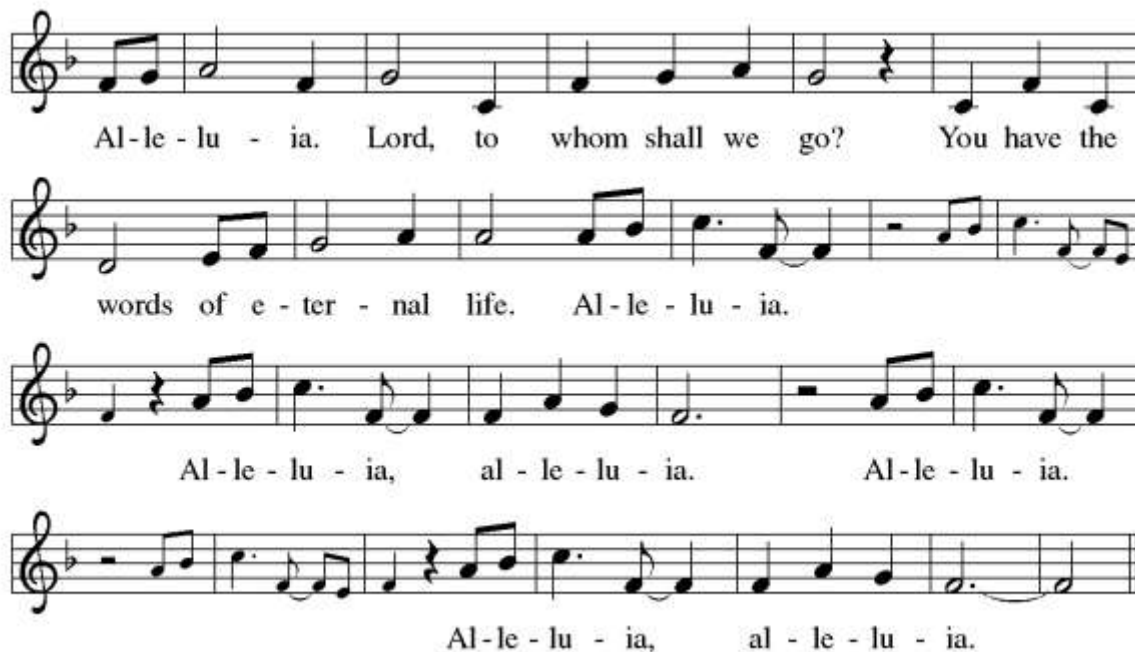
L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able and join in speaking the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 188



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel – Luke 21: 25-36

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Humanity coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Humanity.

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.*





1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Prayers of the People

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God with us,
let us pray for the church, creation, and all who long for God's presence.

After each petition

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts,
in the name of 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 consider a donation to a second collection for a reparations fund in acknowledgement of St. Andrew's use of African American spiritual songs in our worship services. Please see the note in the announcements for more information.

Music during the Offering

As the gifts are brought forward for presentation, 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.

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

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance,

**C: we bring before you
the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope
as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son,
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,
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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, 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.

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 remember your Word dwelling among us ...
 ... 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,
one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

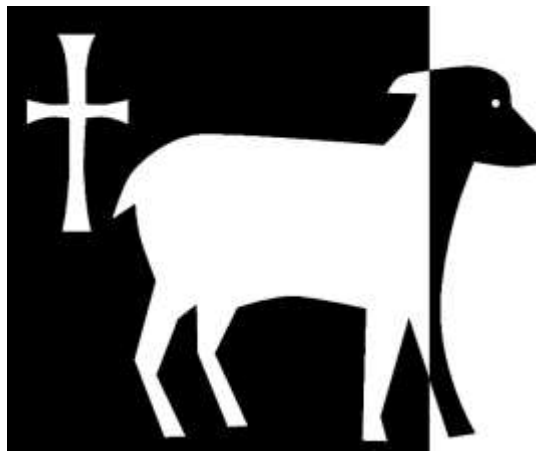
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction and Invitation

P: God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table, where Christ comes to us once again.





The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Agnus Dei / Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff continues with 'mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The third staff continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The fourth staff concludes with 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.'

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 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

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

ELW 252



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.

Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925

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Hymns during Holy Communion

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

ACS 1078



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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Hymns during Holy Communion

Come Now, O God

ACS 902

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Hymns during Holy Communion

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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.

God for whom we wait,

in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.

Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Benediction

P: God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and in the light,

God, our hope for the journey,

✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Following page

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*

Those serving in worship today

Altar Care
Assisting Minister
Audio-Visual Ministers

Cantor
Lector
Little Church – Big Faith Teacher
Piano
Preaching and Presiding Minister

Jodie Minor
Timothy Kocher-Hillmer
Jason Galyardt
Tyler Rietze
Jered Stratton
Colleen Cooke
Emily Duque
Jeff Denlinger
Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements
December 1st, 2024**

- **Welcome to Worship at St. Andrew on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1st, 2024** – We are thankful you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors and guests here for the first time. Worship attendees are invited to make a name tag at the back of the worship space. Little Church – Big Faith, a Bible lesson and activity for children, will take place after the prayer of the day. 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. All are invited to gather for coffee other drinks and food, and conversation in the social hall after worship.

- **Monthly Reparations Offering Today during Worship** – Jesus’ parable from Luke’s Gospel about a compassionate Samaritan provides an example of how God’s people are called to work for healing and repair for our neighbors, independent of who or what caused 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 lower Hill District.
- **Holiday Card Get-Together and Recipe Swap – Today, after Coffee Hour until 2:00 p.m.** – Bring your holiday cards or small crafts and gather to hang out, chat, and work on cards or crafts. Holiday playlists and snacks are also welcome. Feel free to get lunch and join the group afterwards. Bring copies of a favorite recipe or two to share as well!
- **December Produce Distribution – First Tuesday of the Month, December 3rd, 2024, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** – St. Andrew partners with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to serve as a distribution site for fresh produce on the first Tuesday of every month. This month’s distribution will be Tuesday, December 3rd. We invite people of the congregation to help with the distribution from 5:30-7:00 p.m., help with unloading and setup during the day between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- **Renaissance City Choir Concert – Saturday, December 7th, 7:00 p.m.** – Renaissance City Choir, a local LGBTQIA+ choir, will perform their holiday concert, “A Very Ruby Holiday,” on Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., 15206. All are invited to stay for a cookie social after the concert. Accessibility questions may be directed to: accessibility@rccpittsburgh.com. Ticketing questions to: marketing@rccpittsburgh.com. Tickets at: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/rccpittsburgh/a-very-ruby-holiday>.
- **Choir Rehearsal – Sunday, December 8th, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Annual Meeting of the Congregation – Next Sunday December 8th, after Worship** – Each year, St. Andrew holds an annual meeting of the congregation to discuss and approve a budget for mission and ministry in the upcoming year and to elect leaders to serve on the congregation council. This year's meeting will be held next Sunday, December 8th, after worship. Zoom access will be via the regular worship link. According to the constitution, no proxy or absentee votes can be accepted, so please plan to be here for the meeting!
- **Shelter Dinner for Guests of East End Cooperative Ministry – Thursday, December 19th, 6:30 p.m.** – Each month, people of St. Andrew provide dinner for guests of East End Cooperative Ministry, 6140 Station St. (East Liberty), 15206. We invite you to prepare or purchase one menu item and bring it to the shelter by 6:00 p.m., or just come to help serve at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to contribute, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544AAAC22A1F58-53490586-shelter>.
- **Coffee Hour Signups Available** – One way that St. Andrew builds community is by sharing conversation over food and drinks at coffee hour after worship on Sundays. We

invite people of the congregation to sign up to coordinate coffee hour each week, which includes brewing the coffee; setting out cups, napkins, food items, and cold drinks; and cleaning up afterward. Everything needed is at St. Andrew and instructions are available. Please sign up to host coffee hour here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAFAF2CABF85-47069030-coffee>.

- **New *Christ in Our Home* Devotional Booklets (January - March) Available at Church Entrances** – *Christ in Our Home* is a booklet of devotions that includes Scripture, a brief reflection, and prayer for each day. The current and new editions are both available at the church entrances. Please feel free to take one for yourself or others!
- **Compline Prayer Service with the Pittsburgh Compline Choir – Sundays at 8:00 p.m. at Heinz Chapel** – Compline was traditionally a monastic prayer service, and the Pittsburgh Compline Choir, a ministry of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh, sings a choral version of compline rooted in this thousand-year-old tradition of scripture, song, and silence each Sunday at Heinz Chapel at 8:00 p.m. Heinz Chapel is located off of S. Bellefield Ave. in Oakland. For more information, please visit: [Pittsburgh Compline Choir](#).
- **Holiday Gift-Giving Opportunities through Bethesda Lutheran Services and JFCS** – Each year, St. Andrew chooses an organization to partner with to provide holiday gifts for children in need. This year the congregation will work with Bethesda Lutheran Services and JFCS.
 - JFCS has set up a gift registry with Learning Express in Wexford (buying as locally as possible). This is the link to the registry: <https://learningexpress.com/wexford/giftr/registry/view/uid/FF5129350614/>. Gifts can be ordered directly on the LE website, and Joy Givens will pick everything up from the store, so anyone who orders can mark "pick up" from Wexford at checkout and will not have to worry about going to get items themselves.
 - JFCS – St. Andrew will also collect new winter hats, mittens/gloves, and packages of socks and underwear of all sizes in the social hall until Sunday, December 15th. JFCS has 160 kids on their list, 114 of whom are age 5 or older, so the need is great!
 - JFCS – The JFCS Bridge Builders gift distribution event will take place on Monday, December 16th, hopefully at the Carnegie Library's downtown branch on Smithfield Street. We will invite parents to come and "shop" for their children. We hope to offer one toy and hat/gloves set per child, new packages of socks and underwear, and used books (which are already being supplied). We will also assemble gift bags for families that are not able to get downtown and deliver them during that week. Anyone who wants to volunteer to staff our free store and/or deliver gifts should email Joy Givens at jgivens@jfcspgh.org. Bridge Builders is a mentoring and enrichment program for locally resettled refugee and immigrant children, and Joy is happy to talk with anyone about what they do and who we serve!
 - Bethesda – Please see the full Bethesda Residential Wish List page printed at the back of the bulletin. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 15th.