



CHRISTMAS

**"To you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord."**

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2024

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to the faith.

Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Jesus, have doubts, or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and old friends.

Welcome especially to all who have ever been made to feel unwelcome by the church.

Welcome to believers, questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and grieve, to rejoice and recover.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. This is a place where lives are made new.

HOW WE WORSHIP

When we gather for worship, we rejoice in God's grace through songs, prayers, scriptures, and the sacraments. The history of Christian worship is rich with traditions and rituals formed by generations which help to connect our lives with Christ.

By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory. The Holy Spirit joins our hearts and voices through songs and prayers that are both ancient and modern, biblical and relevant. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We are sent from this gathering into the world where we live on mission for Christ in our daily lives, loving and serving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus with a world in need.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Rev. Christopher D. Steubing

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PRELUDE

4 PM
7 PM

Carols on the Violin
"Carol at the Manger"
"Mary Did You Know?"

Jimmy Cheung, Organist
Asher Steubing
Claire and Rory Roberts
Cindy Riffe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please rise as you are able

GATHERING HYMN # 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1 & 3

Please rise as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true
glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier
packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin
again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and
beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

Carol #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1 & 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you made this night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2—7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL # 277

“Away in a Manager” vs. 1

(As this carol is sung the Children may come forward for the Children's sermon)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Chris Steubing

Please rise as you are able

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2: 1—20*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Carol # 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 3

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing.

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the new born king.

Refrain: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo;*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Chris Steubing

HYMN OF THE DAY # 279

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Please rise as you are able

THE NICENE CREED

Together with the whole church, we confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**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.**

Please rise as you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
You may share the peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC “O Holy Night” (Congregation will join on 3rd
verse. *Please rise as you are able as the offering is brought forward.*)

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name; Christ is the Lord,
Oh, praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, 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 a 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.**

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Carol # 283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 2

*The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!*

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

THE WORDS' OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

RECEIVING OUR LORD IN THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion Distribution---All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, you may simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. The communion cups contain wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Hymn #288	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
Hymn #275	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
Hymn #296	“What Child is This”
Hymn # 300	“The First Noel”

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Please rise as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O God for giving us the Christ child to save us, the body and blood of Christ to nourish us, and the light of Christ to guide us. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE BLESSING OF LIGHT

(The Christ Candle is lit, and the light is passed to each individual candle. Always keep lit candles upright, and tip unlit candles to light them.)

JOHN 1: 1—5

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

Carol #281 “Silent Night”

1. Silent night, holy night, All is calm, All is bright.
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ. the Savior is born.

3. Silent night, holy night Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(Candles are extinguished. Please continue to keep your candles upright until the wax has cooled, and return them to the ushers as you leave.)

BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL #267

"Joy to the World"

SENDING

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Our thanks to those who serve as our worship leaders today:
Our Liturgists—Claire Roberts and Don Gillett
Organist—Jimmy Cheung
Choir and Hand Bell Director—Wendy Kuenemann
Pastor—Rev. Christopher Steubing