

**3rd Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024**

**SERVICE THEME:
Repentance: The Needed Preparation**



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December 15, 2024 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: Repentance: The Needed Preparation

WELCOME — We're so glad that you've joined us for this worship service! Please let us know if you need any assistance while you're here.

OUR MISSION — The mission of St. Andrew Lutheran Church is to guide people **to know** Jesus as their Savior, **to grow** in their faith, and **to show** Jesus to others.

OUR BELIEF — We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the only source of all Christian doctrine and teaching. We believe that the only true God is the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that we are saved not by anything we do, but only through faith in Jesus Christ, who gave his life for our sins. We will be happy to tell you more about what we believe!

OUR HISTORY — St. Andrew Lutheran Church was established in 1888 and is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a confessional Lutheran church body with over 1,200 congregations in North America and with more than 30 sister church bodies worldwide.

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INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

This Sunday, traditionally called Gaudete (Rejoice!), captures the heightening anticipation of the coming Savior. Each lesson reinforces the "good news" on which the Gospel reading ends. Those who anticipate the arrival of the Christ rejoice, because the Lord and his deliverance is near. Rejoice at the Lord's coming deliverance!

Communicant members may wish to prepare for the Lord's Supper using the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on p. 156 in the front part of the hymnal (the red book in the pew rack: Christian Worship).

OPENING DIALOGUE AND PRAYER



M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

C: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.** (Isaiah 9:2)

M: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

C: **they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.** (Isaiah 9:3)

M: Christ himself has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, shattering the yoke of sin that burdened us. (Isaiah 53:4)

C: **He restores to us the joy of salvation and grants us willing spirits. By his wounds our weary souls are healed.** (Psalm 51:12, Isaiah 53:5)

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you give strength to the weary and pronounce blessings on those who mourn. You have sent us a Savior. You have made us your people. Fill our hearts with joy that flows from the forgiveness of our sins, joy powered by the resurrection of our living Savior, that we may shine like the stars of the heavens, bringing glory to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Three Advent candles are lit during the OPENING HYMN.

OPENING HYMN – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – CW93 #7 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the
 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
 4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,
 Bride-groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,
 suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
 now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion



And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom
 With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage
 When sor - row is no more. A - round the
 Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and



is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,
 feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -
 throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
 hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The



pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
 tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.
 day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 召唤，认罪及赦罪

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

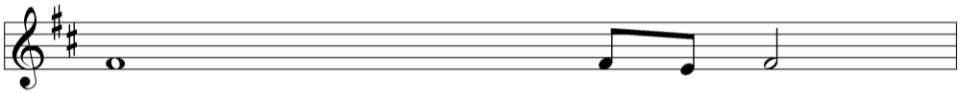
C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

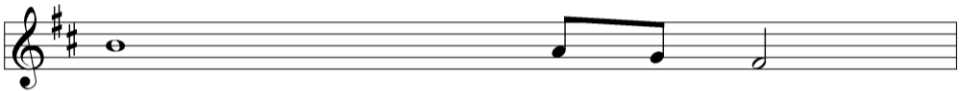
We join to sing Praise Be to the Lord (Benedictus – Song of Zechariah) – CW93 #276 – below and on the next page. Note carefully the numbering of the verses; or, for easier-to-follow layout, sing from the hymnal: #276



1 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el;
3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our en - e - mies,



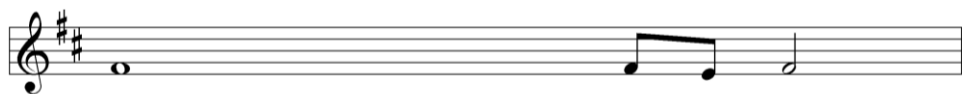
he has come to his people and set hate them free.
from the hands of all who hate us,



2 He has raised up for us a mighty Sav - ior,
4 He promised to show mercy to our fa - thers



born of the house of his servant Da - vid.
and to remember his holy cov - e - nant.



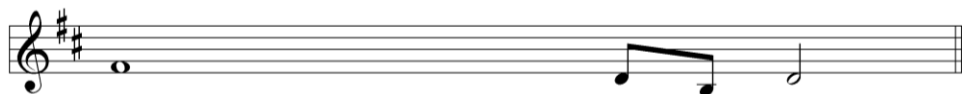
5 This was the oath he swore to our father A - bra - ham:



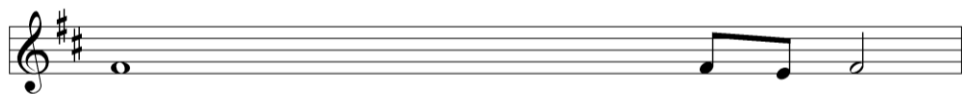
to set us free from the hands of our en - e - mies,



6 free to worship him with - out fear,



holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.



7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
9 In the tender compassion of our God,



for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare his way,
the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,



8 to give his people knowledge of sal - va - tion
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad - ow of death,



by the forgiveness of their sins.
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Text: International Consultation on English Texts, alt.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY 本日共祷文

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our

hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING – Zephaniah 3:14-17 (EHV) – 西番雅书 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love.^a He will rejoice over you with singing."

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 130 – CW93 p. 114 (NIV84) – 诗篇 130

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



Refrain

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.

^a Or *he will be quiet in his love*, but the next line seems to rule out silence.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;*
therefore you are feared.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Michael Joncas. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND READING – Philippians 4:4-7 (EHV) – 腓利比书 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (*Matthew 11:10, NIV*)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL – Luke 3:7-18 (EHV) – 路加福音 3:7-18

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike^c the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

After the reading of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

^c Literally *is placed against*

NICENE CREED 尼西亚信经

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Arise, O Christian People* – CW93 #14 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

14 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



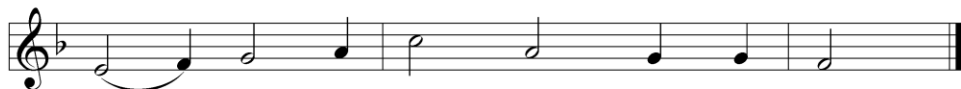
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

SERMON – Luke 3:7-18 – Repentance: The Needed Preparation – 讲
道：基于路加福音 3:7-18

After the sermon, the congregation sings: – 讲道后，会众齐唱：

15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n,
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

OFFERING 奉献

Members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church use this time to respond to God's goodness with gifts of thanks and love. Our giving is guided by God's Word: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9); "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, EHV).

Feel free also to make use of online giving options: 1) via our website: go to <http://standrewchicago.org/>, then click on the "Giving" tab; or just click on [this link](#); or scan this QR code with your mobile device; or 2) via the Vanco Mobile app: use our invite code: GEVWA7, or search for our church name and address (links to the app & more info on p. 23).



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow, including the following special prayers:

for mission work in New Zealand:

Almighty Lord and Savior, you have promised in your Word that you work everything together for your good purpose. We see that in action in the mission field of South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission (Hong Kong) in New Zealand. When two

dozen members of our sister church body in Hong Kong moved to New Zealand in 2020, you opened the door to continued fellowship and growth in a new country. Pour out your blessings on this mission in New Zealand so that they may carry the gospel not only to the 40 fellow Chinese speakers they are currently serving but to many other people as well. Amen.

Additional special prayers may be included.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER 主祷文

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.

THE SACRAMENT 圣餐礼

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy Supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this Supper, we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

Following the teaching of the Bible (1 Corinthians 10:17; 11:27-29; etc.), our church practices closed communion. We ask that only those who are current communicant members of this church or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) partake of the sacrament today. If you are not a current member of this church or one of our sister churches, our pastor would be happy to speak with you about receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future. Please mention it to him after the service.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



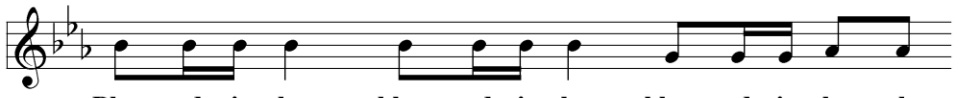
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 耶稣设立圣餐的话

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION 分发圣餐 – 只邀请已经受坚信礼的本会成员来领受
At the direction of the usher, current communicant members of St. Andrew and our sister churches in the WELS and ELS may come forward down the center aisle, then wait until directed by an usher to go to the communion rail. Communicants may kneel or stay standing. Please hold out your hand to receive the bread. If you wish to partake of the

common cup, do not take an individual cup when the assistant comes by with the tray. Those who need to receive grape juice instead of wine may take the purple individual cups in the center of the tray. The minister and assistant will use hand sanitizer before and/or wear sterile gloves during communion setup and distribution. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak with the pastor or an usher to receive one.

After the distribution, the congregation sings: – 分发圣餐后，会众齐唱：



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.

PRAYER and BLESSING 祷告及祝福

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

20 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem -
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans -
4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re -



na - tion, Saint John the Bap - tist came With
meet - ing, Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose
gres - sion, Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The
joic - ing, The word pro - claimed by John, Our



words of con - so - la - tion. With true fore - run - ner's
moth - er he was greet - ing. By Jor - dan's roll - ing
dev - il's dread op - pres - sion. Be - hold the Lamb of
true re - pent - ance voic - ing, That glad - ly we may



zeal The great - er one he named, And him, as
stream, A new E - li - jah bold, He tes - ti -
God, Who takes a - way our sin, Who for our
walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way Un - til we



yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.
peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 15-22, 2024

Today	9:30 AM	Worship Service w. Lord's Supper
	10:45 AM	Christmas Cookie Sale
	11:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible study
Monday	6:30-8:00 PM	Youth Confirmation Class
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (12/22)	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible study

The paraments are blue for the season of Advent. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history taking on human flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky into which he ascended long ago.

WELCOME, GUESTS! – We are glad to have you worship with us today! Please sign the guest register in the center church entryway so that we have a record of your visit. Our pastor, Adam Gawel, would be happy to speak with you if you would like; please contact him (see page 2 for contact information). Please join us for worship or Bible study again!

CHRISTMAS INVITATION POSTCARDS

Please use the Christmas invitation postcard included with this service-folder to invite a friend, relative, coworker, or neighbor to join us for our Christmas worship services (and/or any other worship service or Bible study). Surveys have shown that many people are open to receiving an invitation to attend a Christmas worship service with someone they know, so let's make good use of this opportunity to share the love of God through Jesus! More postcards are available on the Bible study table: loose and in door-hanger bags. Please take as many

as you'd like to distribute... we have hundreds! If you'd like to help distribute some postcards via door-hanger bags in our neighborhood, please take some after they are bagged, and let Pastor Gawel know where you plan to distribute them; or contact Pastor Gawel to set a time to distribute them together before Christmas. Thank you, and God bless your efforts to share the love of Jesus this Christmas season!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE – today (Dec. 15)

Ladies of St. Andrew have arranged a Christmas cookie sale today (Dec. 15) after worship in the Bible study area in the back of the worship space. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the mission work of our church body, and/or to assist local families in need. Thanks to all who baked and helped pack the cookies!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

If you're interested in Christmas caroling in our neighborhood sometime this Christmas season, contact Pastor Gawel, and we'll discuss with all who are interested about a date and time.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS IN PRINT & ONLINE

This year again, our church-body's college of ministry, Martin Luther College, in New Ulm, MN, has prepared a devotion booklet for Advent. We have plenty more hard copies (on the Bible study table and in the center entryway), and it is available to download or read online as well: <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/> . WELS Women's Ministry has also produced daily devotions for Advent that you can subscribe to receive by email here: <https://wels.net/wm-advent-devotions/> . *Forward in Christ* produced weekly devotions for Advent last year that can be read or listened to here: <https://forwardinchrist.net/advent-devotions-2023/> . May God bless your meditation on his Word this Advent!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: “Apologetics: Defending the Faith” – Sundays after worship

Apologetics: Defending the Faith is a six-lesson Bible study to help us thoughtfully and lovingly engage in conversation with people who are skeptical of the Christian faith. We do this using God's gift of reason, rooted in gentleness and respect, all with the goal of love toward our neighbor. Each lesson includes video segments by Wisconsin Lutheran College professor Rev. Dr. Michael Berg, a study guide, and time for

discussion. All are welcome! (If you missed a lesson or would like to rewatch one of the videos, you can find them here:

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/apologetics-defending-the-faith/>

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 11:00 / after worship

Sunday school is held after the worship service, either in the church basement or in the ministry center (next-door to church). Sunday school is open to children from age 3 through 8th grade. (High-schoolers are welcome to join adult Bible study in church during the same time.) All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS BY WELS MINISTERIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

- **Luther Preparatory School – Dec. 15 (Sun.), 3pm & Dec. 19 (Th.), 10am**

For the live-stream, check here:

<https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream>

- **Michigan Lutheran Seminary – Dec. 20 (Fri.), 7:00pm Eastern**

For the live-stream, check here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MichiganLutheranSeminary/streams>

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Christ the King, Palatine, Dec. 22 (Sun.)

An all-German Christmas song service followed by a fellowship meal will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Palatine, IL 60067, next Sunday, December 17, at 4:30pm. Meal to follow in the church fellowship hall. All are most welcome! For more information, call (847) 358-0230 or visit www.byfaithalone.org

“made. known.”: NEW WELS WEBSITE ON IDENTITY, GENDER, & SEXUALITY

Identity and human sexuality have become key spiritual concerns with numerous cultural pivots over time. Many people have questions about sexuality and gender in connection with their faith. This new WELS website, <https://madeknown.net/>, exists to walk with you in faith through identity, gender, and sexuality, so that together we can all see how wide and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18).

Formed at the request of the Conference of Presidents of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), *made. known.* is an effort of the WELS Committee on Identity, Gender, and Sexuality. The committee is made up of pastors, counselors, teachers, and other members of the WELS.

Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about these or any other matters.

WORKPLACE GIVING FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES (CLR)

Christian Life Resources (CLR), a WELS-affiliated ministry, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization included in the United Way's Donor Choice program. That means you can participate in the United Way campaign (or other similar workplace giving programs) and direct your support to CLR. CLR touches countless lives as a ministry of love and compassion centered around the Gospel of Jesus Christ and promoting the sanctity of life. If you intend to participate in the United Way campaign, please consider supporting CLR's ministry through the Donor Choice program. For more information, go to www.ChristianLifeResources.com

PASTORAL COUNSELING; PRIVATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor Gawel is available for confidential pastoral counseling and for private confession and absolution. Please feel free to make an appointment to see him. (You may call or text Pastor Gawel on his cell phone: 773-217-8132.)

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS – Mondays 6:30pm; other time possible

Youth confirmation class is open to youth in grades 5 through 8, and to high-schoolers who have not yet been confirmed. If you have a potential student in mind, please speak with Pastor Gawel. All are welcome! The class is currently held on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00, but we can adjust the class day or time or add a second class-time if needed, to accommodate the schedules of everyone who is interested.

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

This class is open to anyone who is interested in learning more – or who would like a review – about what the Bible teaches and what Lutheran Christians believe. At the conclusion of the class, those who are in agreement in faith are invited to join our church, though this is not a requirement for taking the class. Pastor Gawel is able to teach the class in English and Mandarin Chinese, and we have class materials in Spanish available as well. If you or someone you know are interested in starting Bible information class, please contact Pastor Gawel.

SATURDAY EVENING CHINESE MINISTRY 周六晚上7:45中文圣经学习

On Saturday evenings at 7:45pm in our ministry center (the house next-door to church), we have Chinese ministry, which includes elements of a worship service, Bible study, and prayer, all in Mandarin Chinese. New friends are always welcome to join! Please invite any Chinese friends or neighbors. You may share with them the following invitation:

每周六晚上 7:45, 圣安得烈基督教路德宗教会有成人中文圣经学习。欢迎您参加! 我们在教会的事工中心(教堂旁边的房子)现场聚会; 地址是 3650 S. Honore St., Chicago。如果你想了解更多, 请联系高乐仁牧师: 手机: 773-217-8132。欢迎!

WELS Family Devotions

Get your family into God's Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at

www.wels.net/family-devotions

Sign up today for Marriage Moments

Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your e-mail at

www.welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments

ONLINE GIVING INFORMATION

There are a number of ways to give to St. Andrew online: 1) via our website: go to <http://standrewchicago.org/>, then click on the "Giving" tab; or just click on [this link](#); or scan this QR code with your mobile device; or 2) via the Vanco Mobile app: use our church's invite code: GEVWA7, or search for our church name and address. You can download the Vanco Mobile app from the [Apple App Store](#) for iOS devices or the [Google Play Store](#) for Android devices. Please contact St. Andrew's elder for stewardship, Sam DeLaurentis del Laurentis.sam@gmail.com with any questions.



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Budgeted need each month	Total offerings received in November
\$14,517.92	\$8,230.84

Offerings received last week: \$1,991.72

(budgeted need each week: \$3,350.29)

Total offerings received so far this month: \$2,933.97

Ministry Attendance Last Week

In-church worship attendance last Sunday: 52 (39 adults, 13 children)

Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 9

Last weekend's Saturday Chinese ministry: 9

Adult Bible study attendance: 2 (Thu.: 2)

Sunday school: 9

Youth confirmation class: 6

God bless you this week as you share the joy of the gospel with others!