

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.

Luke 3:21-22

**The Baptism of Our Lord**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 12, 2025**

**SERVICE THEME:**  
**God Shows No Favoritism**



# The Baptism of Our Lord – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany January 12, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

## SERVICE THEME: God Shows No Favoritism

**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.

**Church Office:** 3650 S. Honore St., Chicago, IL 60609 (next door to church)

**Website:** [www.standrewchicago.org](http://www.standrewchicago.org) **Office Phone:** 773-376-5370

**Office Email:** [churchsecretary@standrewchicago.org](mailto:churchsecretary@standrewchicago.org)

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/standrewchicago/](https://www.facebook.com/standrewchicago/)

**Pastor:** Adam Gawel, [pastor@standrewchicago.org](mailto:pastor@standrewchicago.org), cell: 773-217-8132

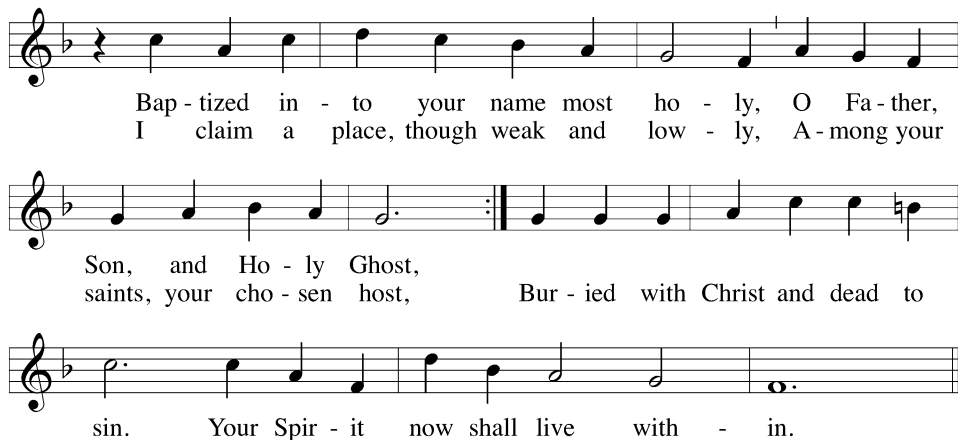
## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

*The long-expected Christ has arrived; the waiting is over as the Son of David is anointed. The Father's approval sounds from heaven and bookends the season of Epiphany, when with the Holy Spirit and with power it thunders again on the Mount of Transfiguration as the Son is revealed in glory.*

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

**C:** *(spoken)* Amen.

*After a musical introduction, the congregation sings:* (CW93 #294)



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,  
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your  
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to  
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

**M:** I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**C:** **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

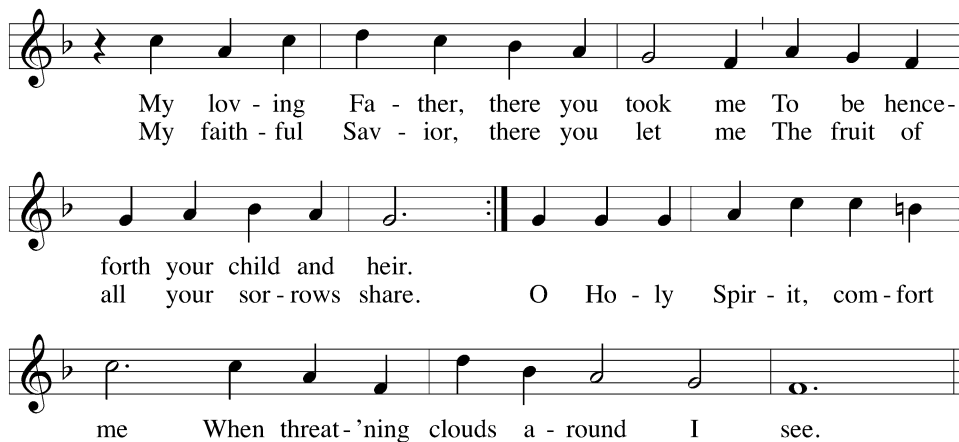
*(John 3:5-6)*

**M:** Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.

*(Psalm 51:5)*

**C:** **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

*(1 Corinthians 6:11)*



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -  
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of  
forth your child and heir.  
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort  
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

**M:** As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

**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.**



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise  
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.  
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

**M:** Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). 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.**



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it  
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me



all, O Lord, from me.  
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY** 本日共祷文

**M:** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING** – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (EHV) – 撒母耳记上 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.”

<sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”

<sup>4</sup>So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup>He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the LORD’s anointed.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

<sup>10</sup>Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?”

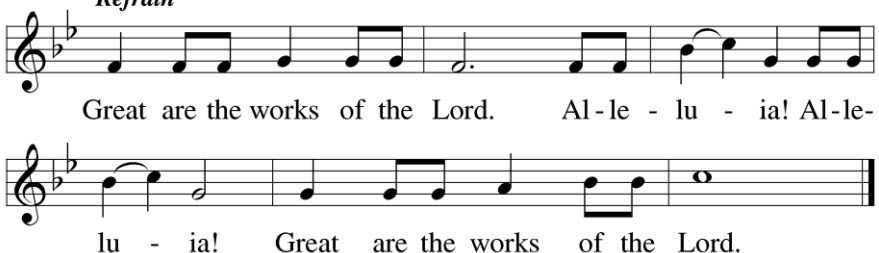
Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.”  
 Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.”

<sup>12</sup>He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.


**PSALM OF THE DAY** – Psalm 2 – CW93 p. 83 (text NIV84) – 诗篇 2

*Refrain*



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



**Refrain**

Why do the nations conspire\*  
 and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together  
against the LORD\*  
 and against his Anointed One.

**Refrain**

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;\*  
 the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*

“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”

**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: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **SECOND READING – Acts 10:34-38 (EHV) – 使徒行传 10:34-38**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup>“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. <sup>38</sup>God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚**

**M:** Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.  
Alleluia. (*Mark 1:11b*)



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

### **GOSPEL – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (EHV) – 路加福音 3:15-17, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John 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. <sup>17</sup>His 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.”

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.”

*After the reading of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** 儿童讲道

**HYMN OF THE DAY** – *To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord* – CW93 #89 –  
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页



# 89 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The  
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The  
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And  
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came  
 5 The Fa - ther's word, the Spir - it's flight A -



Christ, whom heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The  
 Son of God in flesh dis - guised— To  
 John bap - tized the Lamb of God, The  
 God's own voice with words pro - found: "This  
 noint - ed Christ in glo - rious sight As



God from God, the Light from Light, The  
 stand be - neath the Fa - ther's will And  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, De -  
 is my Son," was his de - cree, "The  
 God's own choice, from A - dam's fall To



Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.  
 all his prom - is - es ful - fill.  
 scend - ed on him from a - bove.  
 one I love, who pleas - es me."  
 save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!  
 This man in Christ, our substitute!  
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
 Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949. © 1993 James P. Tiefel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) *Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

**SERMON** – Acts 10:34-38 – God Shows No Favoritism – 讲道：基于使徒  
 行传 10:34-38

# 91 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,  
 2 The wis - er Ma - gi saw from far And fol - lowed  
 3 With - in the Jor - dan Riv - er stood The pure and  
 4 At Ca - na - mir - a - cle di - vine - When wa - ter  
 5 All glo - ry un - to Je - sus be And praise for



why this sense-less fear? For he who came from heav - en's  
 on his guid - ing star, And, led by light, to Light they  
 ho - ly Lamb of God; The Fa - ther's voice, the Spir - it -  
 red - dened in - to wine, The faith - ful saw his glo - ry  
 his e - piph - a - ny, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



throne Does not de - sire an earth - ly crown.  
 pressed And by their gifts their God con - fessed.  
 dove, Con - firmed the Sav - ior from a - bove.  
 shown And put their trust in him a - lone.  
 dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF (LM) *Rheinfeilssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666.

## 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. 20).*

## **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM & APOSTLES' CREED** 纪念洗礼及使徒信经

**M:** Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:3-11).

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**M:** I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**M:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**M:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**M:** Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and Sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**C:** **Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

**C:** **Amen.**

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## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** 教会公祷

**M:** Lord Jesus, at your baptism you revealed yourself as the obedient Son of Man, fulfilling all righteousness. Your heavenly Father revealed you as his beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. The Holy Spirit revealed you as the Christ, anointed and armed to destroy the work of the devil.

**C:** **We thank you, beloved Son of God, that you took on yourself the nature of a servant, became like us, and were obedient to the will of your heavenly Father.**

**M:** Lord Jesus, eternal Word of God, you have connected your mighty Word and gracious promises to the water of Holy Baptism. In Baptism you cleansed us from sin, redeemed us from death, and

clothed us in your perfect righteousness. We praise you for the promise and treasure of Baptism.

**C: Encourage us to remember our baptisms daily as we die to sin and rise to new life with you.**

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

*for Asia Lutheran Seminary and its graduates:*

Lord, you have given our synod the gift of Asia Lutheran Seminary. What a joyous day it was for them to graduate 13 students in October. Bless the ministry of these new graduates so that they build your kingdom. Continue to bless the work of Asia Lutheran Seminary. May we find joy in training men and women to share Christ's gospel with people of all nations. Uphold our mission efforts around the world. Amen.

*Additional special prayers may be included.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Baptized into your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we claim a place, though weak and lowly, among your saints, your chosen host, buried with Christ and dead to sin. Your Spirit now shall live within.

**C: All that I am and love most dearly—receive it all, O Lord, from me. Let me confess my faith sincerely, and help me your own child to be! Let nothing that I am or own serve any will but yours alone. 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.**

**PRAYER and BLESSING** 祷告及祝福

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

**CLOSING HYMN** – *Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert* – CWS

#709 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

# 709 Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert Led to  
 2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons As by  
 3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan Led at  
 4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us One with



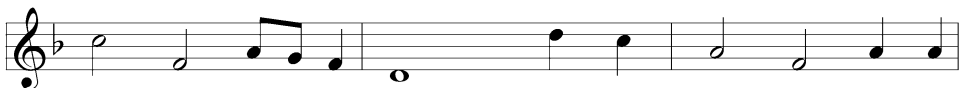
Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you heard the  
 Jor - dan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sin - less,  
 last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the  
 Christ, our ris - en Lord; Freed us, claimed us,



her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old pro - phet - ic  
 with your peo - ple In the riv - er's cleans - ing  
 cross for - sak - en, You ful - filled the Fa - ther's  
 cleansed, for - giv - en Through the wa - ter and the



dream: "He is com - ing! He is com - ing! He will  
 flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens o - pened; Came the  
 will. Lamb of God, we see you dy - ing, Sin - less,  
 Word. Help us hear your ur - gent sum - mons, Call - ing



cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the  
 Spir - it as a dove; Spoke a voice be - yond all  
 yet for sin - ners slain. But where death rose up to  
 us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and



wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"  
 hear - ing: "See my Son, the one I love!"  
 tri - umph, You be - gan your glo - rious reign!  
 daugh - ters, With the cross up - on our brow.

*This hymn not only underscores the significance of our Lord's baptism in his work of salvation but also demonstrates the intimate connection between his baptism and our own.*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

**ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK**  
**January 12-19, 2025**

Today	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible study</b>
Monday	6:30-8:00 PM	<b>Youth Confirmation Class</b>
Saturday	7:45 PM	<b>中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)</b>
Sunday (1/19)	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service w. Lord's Supper</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible study</b>

*The paraments are white for the Baptism of Our Lord. White is the color of purity and completeness. This color assists in bearing the message that "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Christ's purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.*

**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!

**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://welscongregationalervices.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 8<sup>th</sup> grade. (High-schoolers are welcome to join adult Bible study in church during the same time.) All are welcome!

### **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.

### **WELS ONLINE TEEN BIBLE STUDY – Feb. 16 (Sun.), 6:00pm, via Zoom – “Love to the Fullest”**

Some sources claim that there have been over 100 million songs written in our world about the topic of love. Everyone’s talking—or singing—about it, but what exactly is love? What does it look like? How do we know when we find it? How do we know how to show it? This interactive online Bible study for teens will explore those questions and more as we look closely at Jesus and find out what is “Love to the Fullest.” More info and registration link here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/>

*The WELS National Teen Bible Study is an online opportunity for teens across the country to connect around the Word. Held quarterly, teens can sign up and meet through Zoom. Bible study topics will be relevant to teens and are led by various WELS pastors. Teens will be able to interact with one another through breakout rooms.*

### **“TABOO QUESTIONS” PODCAST/VIDEOS WITH PASTOR MIKE NOVOTNY**

Have you ever had questions you wanted to ask a pastor but felt silly or embarrassed to ask them? Questions about “taboo” topics (that is, topics that feel “off-limits”), like: sex, politics, porn, IVF, and mental illness? Well, there’s a podcast for that! Hear how Pastor Mike Novotny from Time of Grace answers some real questions from people just like you, giving thoughtful, Bible-based answers that point people back to

Jesus. New episodes published every week! Find even more questions and links to Apple and Spotify podcasts and YouTube videos at [www.timeofgrace.org/tabooquestions](http://www.timeofgrace.org/tabooquestions) . You can also order Pastor Mike's book, *Taboo: Topics Christians Should Be Talking About but Don't*, at <https://www.tabobook.org/> . Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about these or any other matters.

### **“made. known.” 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.

### **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.)

### **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](http://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](http://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](mailto:del Laurentis.sam@gmail.com) with any questions.



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Budgeted need each month	Total offerings received in December
\$14,517.92	\$9,245.89

Offerings received last week: \$1,344.28  
(budgeted need each week: \$3,350.29)

**Ministry Attendance Last Week**

**In-church worship attendance last Sunday: 28** (20 adults, 8 children)

**Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 12**

**Last weekend's Saturday Chinese ministry: 6**

**Adult Bible study attendance: 13** (Sun.: 5; Wed.: 2; Thur. 3; Fri.: 3)

**Sunday school: 6**

**Youth confirmation class: 4**

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