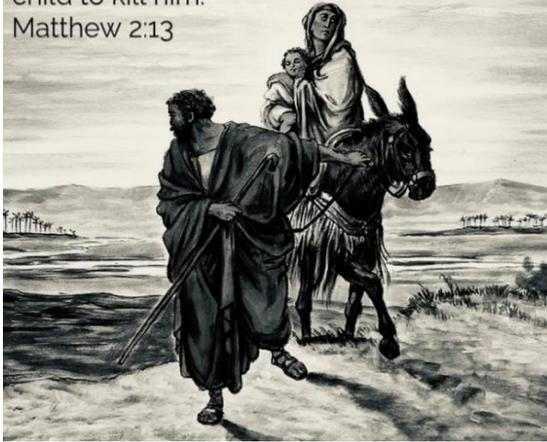


"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.""

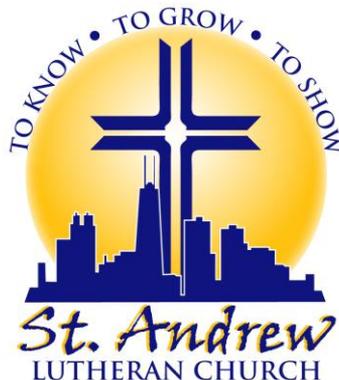
Matthew 2:13



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**  
**December 28, 2025**

**SERVICE THEME:**

**Where Does Jesus Go When Sadness Overshadows Celebration?**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

## December 28, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

**SERVICE THEME: Where Does Jesus Go When Sadness Overshadows Celebration?**

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

### **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

*God cares for his sons. He cared for his son, the nation of Israel—though they were rebellious. He cared for his Son, Jesus—though Herod raged against him. He even cares for his newly adopted sons—though we do not deserve it. God cared for us by sending his Son to deliver us from the corruption of sin and transform us into sons just like Jesus. That work of Christ gives us peace that only sons can have.*

**Communicant members** are encouraged 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).

CHRISTMAS

# 42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
 2 See how God, for us providing, Gave his  
 3 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
 4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
 5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -  
 Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is  
 love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -  
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
 low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
 guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.  
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
 near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.  
Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88 87) *Ein Schlesisch singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1555.

## INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 召喚，認罪及赦罪

**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* Let All Together Praise Our God – CW93 #41:



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
in - fant small; And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** 本日共祷文

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** – Isaiah 63:7-9 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will tell about the LORD's mercies,  
about the praises of the LORD,  
about all that the LORD has done for us,  
about his great goodness to the house of Israel,  
which he performed for them according to his abundant compassion,  
and according to his great mercy.

<sup>8</sup>He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely,"  
so he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup>In all their anguish he felt anguish,<sup>b</sup>  
and the Angel of his Presence saved them.  
In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them,  
and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.

**PSALM OF THE DAY** – Psalm 2 – CW93 p. 65 (NIV84) – printed on the  
following page – 诗篇 65 – 在下一页

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<sup>b</sup> An alternate Hebrew reading is *he did not feel anguish*.

*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.  
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**SECOND READING** – Galatians 4:4-7 (EHV) – 加拉太书 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba*, Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.<sup>f</sup>

**VERSE OF THE DAY** 备福音词及哈利路亚

**M:** Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.  
(*Colossians 3:15a*)



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

**GOSPEL** – Matthew 2:13-23 (EHV) – 马太福音 2:13-23

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



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

<sup>13</sup>After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. <sup>15</sup>He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”<sup>a</sup>

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. <sup>17</sup>Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

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<sup>f</sup> Some witnesses to the text read *an heir through God*.

<sup>a</sup> Hosea 11:1

<sup>18</sup>A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she refused to be comforted,  
because they are no more.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

<sup>21</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod’s son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee.

<sup>23</sup>When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”<sup>c</sup>

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



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

### **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.**

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<sup>b</sup> Jeremiah 31:15

<sup>c</sup> The text does not indicate that this is a direct quotation of the Old Testament, and it does not seem to be an exact quotation of any passage in the Old Testament Scriptures.

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** – *Once Again My Heart Rejoices* – CW93 #37



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear  
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,  
 3 Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,  
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man-kind's place  
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.  
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!"  
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?  
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.  
 One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing Till the air  
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son  
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son  
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace  
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.  
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.  
 All you need I will sure - ly give you."

*Stanza 6 on the following page*

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
 One and all,  
 Great and small,  
 Come with songs of gladness;  
 We shall live with him forever  
 There on high  
 In that joy  
 Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr. adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN (8 33 6 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

**SERMON** – Matthew 2:13-23 – Where Does Jesus Go When Sadness  
 Overshadows Celebration? – 讲道：基于 马太福音 2:13-23

**CHRISTMAS**

**64 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the  
 2 To this vale of tears he comes, Here to  
 3 We are rich, for he was poor; Is not  
 4 O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear, Bless us



God of heav - en, Who, to bid our  
 serve in sad - ness, That with him in  
 this a won - der? There - fore praise God  
 and be near us. Grant us now a



hearts re - jice, His own Son has giv - en.  
 heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
 ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
 glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us!

Text: *Ander Theil Des Drossdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: LASST UNS ALLE (76 76 Trochaic) *Ander Theil Des Drossdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632, alt.

## 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. 24).*



**M:** As the year comes to a close, we remember the members and friends of our St. Andrew church family who passed away this year.

- Mary Ellen Porus – February 18
- Gladys McGee – May 22
- Roger Hartig – August 17
- Richard Paluch – December 14

## RESURRECTION COMFORT 复活应许的安慰

**M:** Let us remember today before God all those who rejoice with us still, but upon a more distant shore, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who now live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another in Christ.

**C: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!**

**M:** When Christ, who is our life, appears,

**C: Then we also will appear with him in glory.**

**M:** We will be before the throne of God

**C: And serve him day and night in his temple.**

**M:** Never again will we hunger;

**C: Never again will we thirst.**

**M:** For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

**C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

**M:** Let us pray:

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** 教会公祷

**M:** I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

**M:** It is fitting, O Lord, as this year draws to a close, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

**M:** You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

**M:** Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

**M:** We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

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

*for Lutheran schools and teachers:*

Heavenly Father, as Christian parents bring their children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord, we thank you for the gift of Lutheran schools in our synod that assist in this worthy endeavor. We praise you for 340 early childhood ministries, 276 elementary schools, 30 area Lutheran high schools, two

preparatory high schools, a college of ministry, a seminary, and a Lutheran college that prepares laypeople for a variety of occupations. Thank you for more than 48,000 students in these schools and the faculties and staff who support and train them. As we look for ways to address an ongoing teacher shortage, we ask you, Lord, to help us prepare more workers for the harvest field. Amen.

*Additional special prayers may be included.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**C:** **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth, you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace, and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. 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：*

## 78 O Light of Gentile Nations



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O  
 2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In  
 3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You  
 4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's  
 ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has  
 seem to hide your face, And through our tears we  
 Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -  
 prom - ised That we should see your face. To -  
 of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then  
 ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O



to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with  
 day you still al - low us Who gath - er  
 be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in  
 Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in



rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had  
 round you here In arms of faith to  
 pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est  
 peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.  
 hold you As did that a - ged seer.  
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.  
 Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: MUNICH (76 76 D) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

**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.

**CLOSING HYMN** – *The Old Year Now Has Passed Away* – CW93 #71 –  
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

# 71 The Old Year Now Has Passed Away



1 The old year now has passed a - way; We thank you,  
 2 We pray you, O e - ter - nal Son, Who with the  
 3 Take not your sav - ing Word a - way, Which lights and  
 4 Oh, help us to for - sake all sin, A new and  
 5 Where - in as Chris - tians we may live Or die in



O our God, to - day That you have kept us  
 Fa - ther reigns as one, To guard and rule your  
 cheers our souls each day. A - bide with us and  
 ho - lier life be - gin! For - give the old year's  
 peace that you can give, To rise a - gain when



through the year When dan - ger and dis - tress were near.  
 Chris - ten - dom Through all the a - ges yet to come.  
 keep us free From er - ror and hy - poc - ri - sy.  
 sins, and bless The new year with true hap - pi - ness,  
 you will come And en - ter your e - ter - nal home.

6 There shall we thank you and adore  
 With all the angels evermore.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith  
 To praise your name through life and death.

Text: attr. Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

**ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK**  
**December 28, 2025 – January 4, 2026**

Today	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service w. Lord's Supper</b>
	10:45 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (1/4)	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service w. Lord's Supper</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Adult Bible study &amp; Sunday School</b>

*The paraments are white for the Christmas season. 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're glad to have you worship with us today! Please sign the guest book 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 (773-217-8132 / pastor@standrewchicago.org). Please join us again soon!

**MEMORIAL** — In loving memory of Mrs. Anna Kluge whose birthday falls on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Mr. Eugene Kahler who passed away Dec. 23, 1986, by Frank and Sandy Thompson.

**PASTOR BORGWARDT LEADING WORSHIP TODAY (Dec. 28)**

Pastor Jake Borgwardt of Crossroads (our sister church on the north side of Chicago), is leading our worship service today (Dec. 28), with his wife Liz accompanying on piano. Pastor Gawel will be out of town through Jan. 3. If you have need of pastoral assistance during that time, please contact either our church office, chairman Brian Garcia, or Pastor Gawel, and we'll help get you in touch with a WELS pastor in our area.

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES & STATEMENTS**

If you made use of offering envelopes in 2025, there's a box of envelopes with your name on it for 2026 on the Bible study table in the back of the worship space (unless you picked it up already). If you would like to begin making use of offering envelopes in 2026, we can assign a box to you. Online giving is also available (see note on that below). ... And, if you made use of offering envelopes or online giving in 2025 and would like a statement of your offerings (eg, for tax deduction purposes), please sign up on the sheet on the podium in the center entryway.

## **FREE BIBLE APP “YouVersion” INCLUDES AUDIO BIBLE RECORDINGS & TIME OF GRACE DEVOTIONS AND VIDEOS**

In the new year, why not resolve to read or listen to more of God's Word – the Bible? One great way to do that even when you're on the go is to listen to audio Bible recordings. The free YouVersion Bible app includes dozens of English Bible versions (I recommend the NIV, CSB, or EHV), many of which have audio recordings available – and many other languages (Spanish, Chinese, etc).

Download the YouVersion Bible app from your phone's app store (eg: Google Play), or click this link:

<https://www.bible.com/app> , or scan this QR code. ...



When you open the app, tap the “Bible” icon at the

bottom of the screen to read or listen to the Bible. Then select version (eg, NIV) and Bible-book, chapter, and verse at the top. Bible versions that have audio available will appear with a volume icon next to the name. Some versions have multiple audio options (different narrators). Once you've opened a Bible version that has audio, there will be a triangular play button near the bottom of the screen that you can press to start the audio playing. You can switch narrators (if available) by pressing the volume icon at the top of the screen. You can also find Time of Grace (a WELS-affiliated ministry) devotions and videos from Pastor Mike Novotny and others by searching “Time of Grace” in the “Plans” or “Discover” tabs at the bottom of the screen. Ask Pastor Gawel if you need any help. God bless you as you read and meditate on his Word!

## **WELS DAILY DEVOTIONS – VIA WELS APP, EMAIL, ONLINE**

Read or listen to WELS Daily Devotions on the WELS App (download here: <https://m.wels.net/> ), or subscribe to receive them by email:

<https://wels.net/daily-devotions-subscription/> , or read them online.

These devotions are for a general adult audience. Family devotions, teen devotions, and devotions for military service members are also available, on the app or here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/>, to subscribe to receive by email or read online.

### **DISCOVERY DAY AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS – Jan. 19 (MLK Day)**

High school students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday, January 19. By attending our special visit event, you'll have a great opportunity to tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, your admissions counselor, and have lunch on us. Reserve your place today! Register today: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call 414.443.8811, email [admissions@wlc.edu](mailto:admissions@wlc.edu), or snap the QR code.



### **WELS WOMEN'S MINISTRY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY STARTING Jan. 17/19**

WELS Women's Ministry is offering the online course "Heirs Together," a study of what the Bible says about men and women and God's design for them. This course lasts 11 weeks with the option to attend on Saturday mornings or Monday evenings, starting January 17/19. Register here: <https://gf.wels.net/heirs-together/>. Purchase of a study guide for the class is required (\$12): <https://online.nph.net/heirs-together-of-gods-gracious-gift-student.html>

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL – 11:00 / after worship on Sundays**

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 – Thursdays 6:30pm**

Youth confirmation class is open to youth starting from grade 5 or 6 (depending on individual readiness) and above. (Young adults nearing the end of high school and beyond who have not yet been confirmed in the WELS or ELS can arrange for adult confirmation class with Pastor Gawel.) The class is currently held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00. If you have a potential student in mind who would be ready to start class, please speak with Pastor Gawel. All are welcome!

## **BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS**

This class is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches and what our church believes – and for those who would like a review. 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, and we can schedule the class at a time and place that's convenient for you.

## **PASTORAL COUNSELING; PRIVATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Pastor Gawel is available for confidential pastoral counseling on the basis of God's Word, 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.)

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

Chinese ministry is held on Saturday evenings at 7:45pm in our ministry center (the house next-door to church), 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!

## **TEEN ONLINE BIBLE STUDY – Feb. 15 (Sun.), 6:00pm**

“Strength Made Perfect in Weakness” (Gideon – Judges 6-7) -- The account of Gideon convinces us that we need to alter our stereotypes of what a servant of Christ is like. We are duped into thinking that a real servant of Christ is dynamic, assured, confident, fearless, witty, glamorous, fit for the Christian TV network – you get the idea! Don't think you are unusable because you don't have that air about you. ... Rev. Dave Scharf, professor of theology at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN, will lead this online interactive Bible study via Zoom. Register here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/>

## 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 November
\$15,545.33	\$9,279.23

Offerings received 12/11—12/18: \$2,305.38; 12/19—12/23: \$4,864.22  
(budgeted need each week: \$3,587.38)

Total offerings received so far this month (though 12/23): \$8,498.29

### **Ministry Attendance Last Week**

**Worship attendance last Sunday in church: 46** (33 adults, 13 children)

**Live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices (Sunday): 6**

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

**Adult Bible study attendance: n/a**

**Sunday school: 13      Youth confirmation class: n/a**

**God bless you this week as you share the peace and joy of our Savior’s birth with others!**