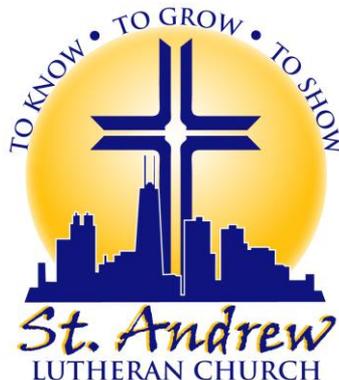


**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 7, 2025**

**SERVICE THEME:  
Advent Hope for Our Hopeless Situations**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

### December 7, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

#### SERVICE THEME: Advent Hope for Our Hopeless Situations

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/standrewchicago/)

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

#### INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near! The Forerunner (John the Baptist) prepares for the coming Christ by preaching repentance that brings renewal of life. The Root of Jesse (Jesus) will come in swift judgment on the unrepentant but in mercy and grace for God's people. His coming will end the wickedness of the world and usher in a new age restored to the perfection with which God made it.*

**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).

## 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:** John the Baptist called out in the wilderness: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

**C:** **“Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”** (Matthew 3:2,3)

**M:** Christ himself has given us the power for repentance. By his holy life and innocent death, he has conquered Satan and sin and is able to help us when we are tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)

**C:** **He reigns in our lives with his grace and brings us to eternal life.** (Romans 5:21)

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your holy Word has called us to repent of sin and walk in your path of righteousness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, you have not quickly judged the world for sin, but have given all a time of grace, and a call to turn from evil ways. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts to you. Make us grow in our obedience to your Word. In Jesus, you have revealed to us your holy love. Move us to love one another as he has loved us, and to serve one another as if we were serving you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

*Two Advent candles are lit during the OPENING HYMN.*

**OPENING HYMN** – *Comfort, Comfort All My People* – CW93 #11 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

# 11 Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -  
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all  
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 fered man - ya day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

**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,



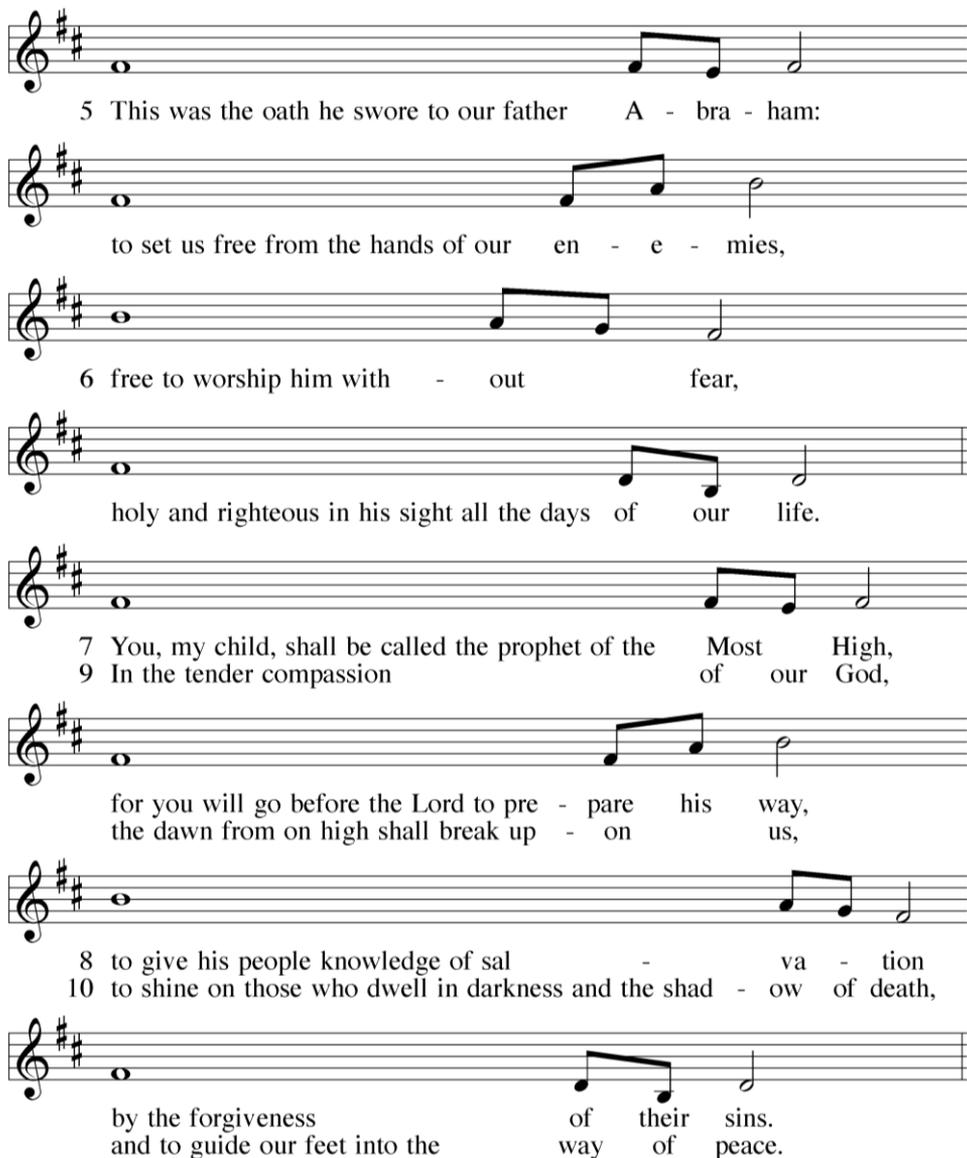
he has come to his people and set them free.  
from the hands of all who hate us,



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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed

light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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 – Isaiah 11:1-10 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 11:1-10**

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the  
earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner<sup>a</sup> for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

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<sup>a</sup> Or *signal flag*

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

*Refrain*

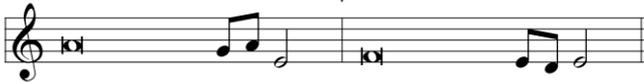


Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



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.

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**

**SECOND READING** – Romans 15:4-13 (EHV) – 罗马书 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>10</sup>And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>11</sup>And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** 备福音词及哈利路亚

**M:** Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God’s salvation. Alleluia. (*Luke 3:4,6 - NIV*)



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

<sup>e</sup> Psalm 18:49

<sup>a</sup> Deuteronomy 32:43

<sup>b</sup> Psalm 117:1

<sup>c</sup> Isaiah 11:10

**GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12 (EHV) – 马太福音 3:1-12**

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



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

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!”

<sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”<sup>d</sup>

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him.

<sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike<sup>a</sup> the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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



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

**NICENE CREED 尼西亚信经**

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<sup>d</sup> Isaiah 40:3

<sup>a</sup> Literally *is placed against*

**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 – *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* – CW93 #16 –  
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页**

# 16 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.  
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

**SERMON** – Romans 15:4-13 – Advent Hope for Our Hopeless Situations –  
 讲道：基于罗马书 15:4-13



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

## 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).*



## 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 prayer:*

*for WELS's long-range strategic plan: Commission:*

Lord, thank you for your Great Commission playing out in Latin America, as Lutheran men reached by WELS missionaries have become missionaries themselves who share your gospel of forgiveness of sins across countries. Bless our synod's "Commission" goals in the long-range strategic plan. Help us work with church bodies in our fellowship to carry out mission work and open seminaries. Guide us in producing Lutheran resources in other languages. And let us proclaim the gospel to unreached nations, including in high-risk areas. 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.

**CLOSING HYMN** – *When All the World Was Cursed* – CW93 #20 –  
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

# 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 7-14, 2025**

Today	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service w. Lord's Supper</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible study</b>
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (12/14)	9:30 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study</b>
	1:00-5:00 PM	<b>Christmas Party &amp; Meal @ Mama Luigi's; sign up today</b>

*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'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!

**THANK OFFERING** — Thank offering for all blessings the Lord has given our family, by Frank & Sandy Thompson.

**SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY & MEAL DEC. 14 AT MAMA LUIGI'S**  
A Christmas party and fellowship meal is planned for our St. Andrew church family on December 14 (Sunday) 1:00-5:00 at Mama Luigi's Restaurant, 7500 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview. **The deadline to sign up is today.** Please either sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Bible study table in the back of the worship space, or contact Glenn or Christine Young or Pastor Gawel.

## **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 some hard copies left, and it is available online 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/womens-ministry-devotions-subscription/> . And, the quarterly *Meditations* booklets contain daily devotions for Advent as well. May God bless your meditation on his Word this Advent!

## **REGISTRATION EXTENDED FOR WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP – Jan. 19-21 (Mon-Wed), Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan)**

The registration window has been extended for the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership, held at the Chicago Hilton on Jan. 19-21. **Final deadline is Dec. 7.** <https://lutheranleadership.com/2026-registration/>

**Lutheran leadership is for everyone!** When people hear “leadership conference,” they might think this conference is only for pastors or church council members. But it's so much more than that. When you look at the descriptions of the 70 different presentation options, you will see there are presentations about how everyone can use their gifts to serve the church. We encourage women, men, young adults, and teens to attend!

## **HANDEL'S MESSIAH AND PRAETORIUS CONCERTS IN OUR AREA**

Every year in Chicago near Christmas there are multiple performances of Handel's *Messiah*, a world-famous oratorio in English that highlights Old Testament prophecies of the Savior and their fulfillment in the life and work of Jesus. This year, Apollo Chorus is performing it on Dec. 13 and 14: <https://www.apollochorus.org/event-calendar/> . Camerata Chicago is performing *Messiah* Part 1 (the Christmas portion) plus the Hallelujah Chorus and the Handel piece *Zadok the Priest*, on Dec. 12, 13, & 14: <https://www.cameratachicago.org/category/concert-series/2025-12-sacred-music-messiah/> (kids are almost free, and there's a 20% discount available for all with code CCNL). Apollo's Fire is performing a concert of the work of Lutheran composer Michael Praetorius, presented as a Christmas Vespers service, including his settings of the familiar carols *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* and *In Dulci Jubilo (Now*

*Sing We, Now Rejoice*), on Dec. 14 & 15:

<https://apollosfire.org/event/praetorius-christmas-vespers-chicago/>

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERTS BY WELS HIGHER ED & HIGH SCHOOLS**

Celebrate the birth of your Savior with our WELS ministerial education schools and area Lutheran high schools. Watch their Christmas concerts in December via the schools' livestreams. Concerts are in Central Time, unless noted. Find more information as well as links to the livestreams at [wels.net/events](https://wels.net/events).

- Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.—Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 14, 4 p.m.
- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.—Dec. 14, 3 and 7 p.m.
- Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.—Dec. 14, 3 p.m.; Dec. 18, 10 a.m.
- Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.—Dec. 19, 7 p.m. ET
- Area Lutheran high schools—Info & links at [wels.net/events](https://wels.net/events).

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

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

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Christ Through Us" – Sundays 11:00**

This study gives an overview of the 175-year history of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), in PowerPoint presentations containing pictures from the book of the same name recently published by Northwestern Publishing House. This study highlights the blessings God has poured out on the WELS as it carries out its mission across the nation and the world, and the theological and cultural challenges that refined WELS into a distinctly Christ-centered, confessional Lutheran church body. Join us for this study to learn more about the history of our church body and give thanks to God for all his blessings through it! All are welcome! If you're interested but aren't able to join us, you can find the PowerPoints and study guides here:

<https://welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th-resources/#congregational> ,

and the book available for purchase here:

<https://online.nph.net/175annivbook>

### **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 – 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, but we could discuss adjusting the class day or time if needed, to accommodate the schedules of everyone who is interested. 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!

**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 [deLaurentis.sam@gmail.com](mailto:deLaurentis.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 11/27 through 11/30: \$2,601.00  
 (budgeted need each week: \$3,587.38)

**Ministry Attendance Last Week**

- Worship attendance last Sunday in church: 11** (9 adults, 2 children)
- Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 15**
- Worship attendance Thanksgiving in church: 17** (16 adults, 1 child)
- Thanksgiving service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 6**
- Last weekend’s Saturday Chinese ministry: 4**
- Adult Bible study attendance: 10** (Sun.: 6; Tue.: 2, 2)
- Sunday school: n/a    Youth confirmation class: 6**

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