

*Second Sunday of Christmas and  
Epiphany of our Lord*

"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Matthew 2:2



## WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW

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

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

**Welcome** to new visitors and old friends.

**Welcome** especially to all who have ever felt unwelcome in the church.

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

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

## HOW WE WORSHIP

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

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

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**“Love Has Come”**

*Hymn #292*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Triune God, **Make us one in Spirit as you are one in Spirit, together since before time began. Grant us the unity that seeks justice in community, Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 31: 7-14*

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 147: 12-20



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

**Refrain:**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**Refrain**

<sup>15</sup> God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

**Refrain:**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**Refrain:**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Pastor Chris Steubing*

*Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

Words of e—ter—nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 2: 1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Chris Steubing*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Hymn # 301*

*“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” vs. 1-5*

## THE NICENE CREED

Together with the whole church, we confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

...Hear O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace with one another.

## OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

*Hymn #671*

*Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of every good gift, we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. Amen.**

## MEAL

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en 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 who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

**Blessed are you in the darkness and the light.**

Blessed are you for the promise to your people.

**Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.**

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

**Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy spirit.**

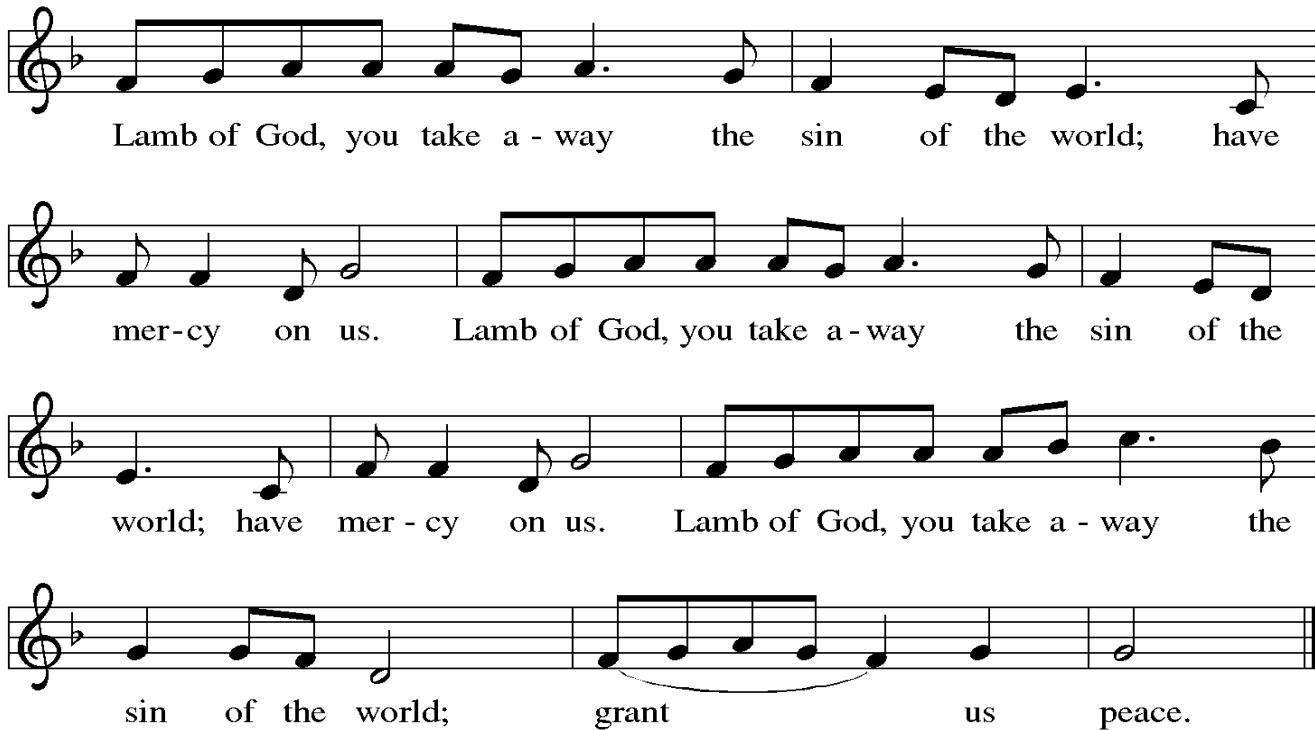
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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

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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

## Communion Hymns

Hymn #302 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Hymn #303 "Brightest and Best of the Stars"

## BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

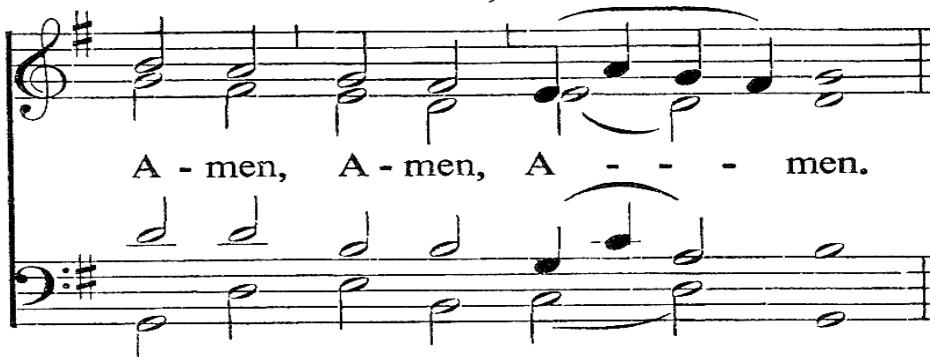
*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Christ Jesus, You have fed us with love incarnate, and we are utterly changed. Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in this world, as we find the YES within each of us. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you; May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world; and may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that you are loved beyond measure.



## SENDING HYMN

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

*Hymn #677*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Our staff and worship leaders today:

Pastor—Rev. Chris Steubing

Visitation Pastor—Rev. Judi Miller

Communion Assistants—

Our Reader—Cindy Riffe

Our Liturgist—Claire Roberts

Organist—Jimmy Cheung

Choir and Hand Bell Director—Wendy Kuenemann