



**IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD  
FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF MINISTRY  
AS ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

**Sunday, October 20, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Today we gather with grateful hearts to celebrate and praise God for the ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church since the congregation's founding in 1985. For the past 39 years, through days of great joy and days of challenge, God has blessed this congregation with abundant gifts of grace and good will, friendship, sturdy leadership, courage and faith. While we gather in thanksgiving today for the final worship service as St. Andrew Church, we lean expectantly with trust into the days ahead as we join with the people of Grace Lutheran Church, Plainville, and Zion Lutheran Church of Bristol, to give birth next Sunday to the new Faith Lutheran Church!

*For what has been, for what is, and for what is yet to be .... Thanks be to God!*

2

**The Liturgy of Holy Communion**

**+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.  
(\*indicates all are invited to stand as able)*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *Prelude on Kelvingrove (Will You Come and Follow Me)*  
Handbell Choir arr. S Eithun

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*Those present may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*

**P.** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

A reading from the Psalms: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.  
(Psalm 29:3, 11)

A reading from Second Corinthians: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. **All: Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.**

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

**You are the fountain of resurrection.**

Praise to you for your saving waters:

**Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.** The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

**Naaman washes his leprosy away,**

**and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.**

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. **Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.**

**Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.**

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN Thine the Amen ELW 826 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.**

Pr. The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in this congregation throughout its life. As this congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church concludes its time together, grant that we may ever follow in the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Remarks/Greetings**

4

### **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### **CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME**

*Children may leave worship with the teachers for*

*Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day. **FIRST***

**READING Isaiah 44.1-8** A reading from **Isaiah.**

1 But now hear, O Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen!  
2 Thus says the LORD who made you,  
who formed you in the womb and will help you:  
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.  
3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,  
and my blessing on your offspring.  
4 They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,  
like willows by flowing streams.  
5 This one will say, "I am the LORD's,"  
another will be called by the name of Jacob,  
yet another will write on the hand, "The LORD's,"  
and adopt the name of Israel.  
6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
8 Do not fear, or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Hymn "Shepherd Me, O God" ELW 780**  
*Choir sings verses, Congregation sings refrains*

**SECOND READING 1 Peter 2.4-10** A reading from First Peter.

4Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

8and

"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

6

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 175** *We all sing*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Alleluia*, I am the vine, you / are the branches.\* Those who abide in me and I in them / bear much fruit. Repeat *Alleluia*.

## **GOSPEL John 15.1-11**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] 1I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is

thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 9As

the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's  
creation. *Brief silence.*

For the one holy catholic and apostolic church in all times and places, of

which this congregation has been a vital part, we give our thanks and praise.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the men and women who thirty-five years ago founded this congregation, who made personal sacrifices in order for it to grow and flourish, and who used their talents and skills in building up a community of faith, we give our thanks and praise.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation's ministries throughout its life,  
its gatherings for praise and prayer,  
its faithful use of the means of grace,  
its study of the scriptures,  
and its vital ministries serving children and youth and adults,  
for the work of mission this congregation has supported —  
from the global ministries of the Church  
to our local partners of ministry  
and for all the lives that have been affected by God's work through  
us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all who hold special attachments to this congregation — for  
those who have been baptized, nurtured in faith, confirmed, or  
married in this place,  
that the Holy Spirit will continue to sustain them.  
For the present members of this congregation,  
that today will mark not only the end of an era  
but also the beginning of new opportunities for worship and service.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the people of this congregation and the people of Grace and Zion  
Lutheran Churches, who will soon become one new congregation,  
Faith Lutheran Church,  
that our many and various gifts for ministry will be joined and shared freely,  
and that our new life together will become a vibrant, life giving expression  
of God's abundant and abiding love for this community and whole  
creation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, its present and past bishops, associates to the bishop, staff,

and other leaders, who have helped, encouraged and guided this congregation throughout the years,

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For all those among us and for those we love and care for who are ill and who suffer hardship of any kind, especially Freda, Sandy, Nancy, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Valerie, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Robin, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts... *(Pause for silence)* embrace them in your tender care and healing mercies. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For our nation as we approach Election Day, that we will act and vote for those who will govern with wisdom, integrity and justice, upholding the godly dignity of all your people.

For our war torn world, especially the peoples of Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and Haiti, that your reconciling peace will reign upon us all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all who have been a part of the ministry of this congregation throughout its life, those who have remained constant in the face of challenges, those who have moved away, and all who have died and now rest in you, we give you thanks, rejoicing that we are joined together in one eternal communion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

10

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **\*SHARE THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**+MEAL+**

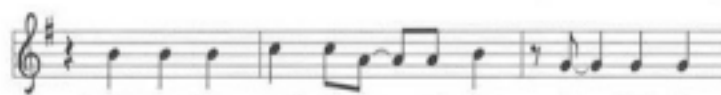
*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM / HYMN**

**Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song arr. Z. Highben ELW 808** Choir sings st. 1-3, congregation will join in singing st. 4

**OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531 St. 1 and 2**



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the  
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



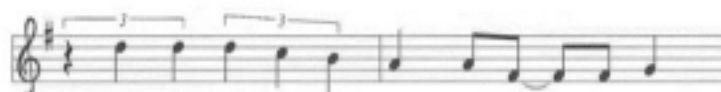
read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,  
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



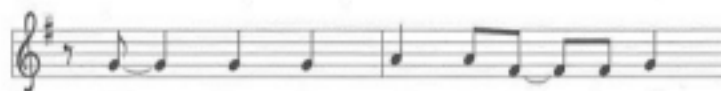
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



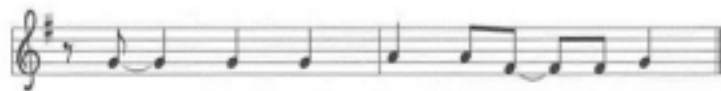
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King,



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

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.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful  
God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

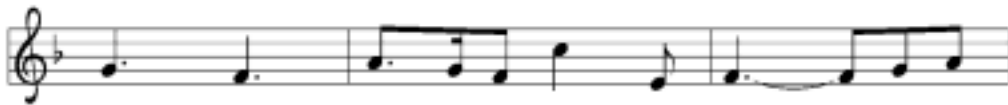
## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW 193**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Per Harling, b. 1948  
Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

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## GREAT THANKSGIVING

○ God most mighty,  
○ God most merciful,  
○ God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.

### **We praise you, O God.**

When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.  
**We bless you, O God.**

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.  
**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen**  
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen**  
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen**

○ God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
○ God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
○ God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
○ God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

○ God most majestic, ○ God most motherly,  
○ God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, 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**

*You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal. The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white*

grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles, placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life-giving graces you have received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

## COMMUNION

17

### COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God ELW 195*



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, grant us peace.

Music: *Staff of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
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(Please remain seated)

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others

and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

18

**+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prayer for the Closing of the Congregation**

With thanks to God for the work accomplished in this place, I declare the congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church to be closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the witness of the people who have ministered in the name of Jesus Christ through this beloved congregation be undiminished and continue as they begin a new day of ministry as Faith Lutheran Church. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's own people,  
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him  
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN The Church's One Foundation ELW 654**

**DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in peace,  
in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

19

**WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, October 20, 2024**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Les Swenson

**Musician:** Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

**Assisting Minister:** Robert Herold

**Lector:** Terry Gustafson

**Tech Team:** Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

**Ushers:** Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

**Instrumentalists:** Emily Girard, Alto Saxophone; Matt Girard, Trumpet;  
Britt Lynch, Violin

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Monday, October 21, 2024**

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, October 24, 2024**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

### **Saturday, October 26, 2024**

2:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Pumpkin Decorating

### **Sunday, October 27, 2024; Reformation Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook) 10:30 a.m. Festive Potluck Brunch



ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT  
1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT  
Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Church Phone: 860.583.5809  
Email: [churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)  
The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362  
Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music