



**St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement...** *To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.* Adopted April 2023

**September 3, 2023**  
**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

## **+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *Let Streams of Living Justice* Music by G. Holst,  
arr. By M. Hayes

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone,  
we have sinned.**  
**In your compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin  
and take away our guilt.**  
**Create in us a new heart  
and give us a steadfast spirit.**  
**Do not cast us away,  
but fill us with your Holy Spirit  
and restore your joy within us.**  
**Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,  
 so deep is God's compassion for you.  
 As high as heaven is above earth,  
 so vast is God's love for you.  
 As far as east is from west,  
 so far God removes your sin from you,  
 renewing your life through Jesus Christ.  
 Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

**GATHERING HYMN     Let Streams of Living Justice     ELW 710**

- 1 Let streams of living justice  
 flow down upon the earth;  
 give freedom's light to captives,  
 let all the poor have worth.  
 The hungry's hands are pleading,  
 the workers claim their rights,  
 the mourners long for laughter,  
 the blinded seek for sight.  
 Make liberty a beacon,  
 strike down the iron pow'r;  
 abolish ancient vengeance:  
 proclaim your people's hour.
  
- 2 For healing of the nations,  
 for peace that will not end,  
 for love that makes us lovers,  
 God grant us grace to mend.  
 Weave our varied gifts together;  
 knit our lives as they are spun;  
 on your loom of time enroll us

fill our thread of life is run.  
 O great weaver of our fabric,  
 bind church and world in one;  
 dye our texture with your radiance,  
 light our colors with your sun.

- 3 Your city's built to music;  
 we are the stones you seek;  
 your harmony is language;  
 we are the words you speak.  
 Our faith we find in service,  
 our hope in others' dreams,  
 our love in hand of neighbor;  
 our homeland brightly gleams.  
 Inscribe our hearts with justice;  
 your way—the path untried;  
 your truth—the heart of stranger;  
 your life—the Crucified.

## **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.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering  
 for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the  
 path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**+WORD+**

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

**FIRST READING****Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
 remember me and visit me,  
 and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.  
 In your forbearance do not take me away;  
 know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
 and your words became to me a joy  
 and the delight of my heart;  
 for I am called by your name,  
 O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
 nor did I rejoice;  
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
 for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
 my wound incurable,  
 refusing to be healed?  
 Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,

like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

## **PSALM Psalm 26.1-8**

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

- <sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- <sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**
- <sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- <sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## SECOND READING    Romans 12:9-1

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave

room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.



## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY Will You Come and Follow Me ELW 798**

## The Summons

- 1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?
- 4 "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside  
 and never be the same?  
 Will you use the faith you've found  
 to reshape the world around,  
 through my sight and touch and sound  
 in you and you in me?"

- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
 when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you  
 and never be the same.  
 In your company I'll go  
 where your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow  
 in you and you in me.

## **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**

**A** Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A.** Healer of our every ill, surround with your merciful love all those troubled and ill, especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Jim, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Trudi, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Marie,

Jean, Tracey, Donna, Gary, Michael, Pat, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Merciful God, **received our prayer.**

**A** Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Open us to welcome your guiding Spirit as we continue to seek paths of collaborative ministry with our neighboring Lutheran communities in Bristol and Plainville.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A.** God, weaver of life, grant your life long blessings on Vicki and Brett as they join their lives together in marriage today. Enrich them with your goodness, and use us to support them in living out their promises to one another.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**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.*

**OFFERTORY DUET Laudamus te** N. Sleeth  
Sung by Leana Gleicher and Terry Gustafson

Laudamus, Laudamus, Laudamus te.

We praise Thee, Lord, this joyful day.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we magnify Thy name.

Laudamus, Laudamus, Thy majesty proclaim.

Unto Thee all glory be, now and for eternity.

Heaven and earth are full of Thee.

Holy, Holy One in Three. Laudamus,,,

## OFFERTORY HYMN **Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring ELW 691**

### Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957  
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune  
 Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
 you are the giver of all good things.  
 Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
 and multiply your graciousness in us,  
 that the world may be fed with your love,  
 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 pg. 207**



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



heav'n 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.



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God,  
you alone are Holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;  
near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.

**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 love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.

**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 down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!*

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready!

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN “Lamb of God” ELW p. 208



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## 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:

We thank you, generous God,  
 for the refreshment we have received  
 at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
 through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN    For the Beauty of the Earth    ELW 879**

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

*Refrain*

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

- 2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

- 4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*
- 5 For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 3, 2023**

Ryan Heckman, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

**Assistant Minister:** Jill Little

**Lector:** Bob Herold

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

**Ushers:** Donald Millbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

### **This morning we welcome as our worship leader Ryan**

**Heckman.** Ryan is a recent graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served as intern at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT over the past two years. He has been approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA and is awaiting a call to serve here in New England. Welcome Ryan!

*Ryan has received permission from Bishop James Hazelwood of our New England Synod, ELCA, to preside at the Communion table today.*

*The flowers placed near the altar today are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of Vicki Trudel and Brett Dube. Their wedding will be held this afternoon here in the church.*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. **Copyright 2023** Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26763.

Permission to reprint and stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-724528. All rights reserved.

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Summer Bells

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, September 7, 2023**

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

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

### **Sunday, September 10, 2023; 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour