



**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 10, 2023**  
**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

## **+GATHERING+**

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

### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE *Children's Medley***

arr. M.Hayes

*(Jesus Loves the Little Children/Jesus Loves Even Me/Jesus Loves Me)*

### **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 God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.  
We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away**

**from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you**

**and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**Amen**

## **GATHERING HYMN    Earth and All Stars    ELW 731**

- 1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

- 2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
- 4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

## **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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

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

## **FIRST READING**

### **Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? The word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM Psalm 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

**SECOND READING      Romans 13:8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

*Alleluia.* In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,\* entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. *Alleluia.* (2 Cor. 5:19)

## GOSPEL **Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about

anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace ELW 716**

- 1 Lord of all nations, grant me grace  
to love all people, ev'ry race;  
and in each person may I see  
my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.
- 2 Break down the wall that would divide  
thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.  
My neighbor's good let me pursue;  
let Christian love bind warm and true.
- 3 Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred  
by loveless act and thoughtless word.  
Make me to see the wrong I do  
will crucify my Lord anew.
- 4 Give me thy courage, Lord to speak  
whenever strong oppress the weak.  
Should I myself the victim be,  
help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.
- 5 With thine own love may I be filled  
and by thy Holy Spirit willed,  
that all I touch, where'er I be,  
may be divinely touched by thee.



## 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** Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths.  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A.** Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick, 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. Guard their waking and their sleeping.

(Pause for silence)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope.

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 HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

GATHERING

531

## The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

*The Feast Is Ready*


1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
 2 Tu - 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.

*Refrain*


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.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

THE FEAST IS READY  
© 1988 Kendrick

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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. 130

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.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
 the promise to Israel,  
 the rescue from Egypt,  
 the gift of the promised land,  
 the words of the prophets;  
 and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest

until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
 Through him, with him, in him,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
 now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther, — who art in heav - en, — hal - low - ed  
 be thy name; — thy king - dom come; — thy will be  
 done — on earth as it is in heav - en.  
 Give us this day — our dai - ly bread; — and for -  
 give - us our tres - pass - es — as we for - give those —  
 who tres - pass a - gainst us; — and lead us — not in - to temp -  
 ta - tion, — but de - liv - er us from e - vil. —  
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the  
 glo - ry — are yours, for - ev - er and ev - er. —  
 A - - - - men, A - - - - men. —



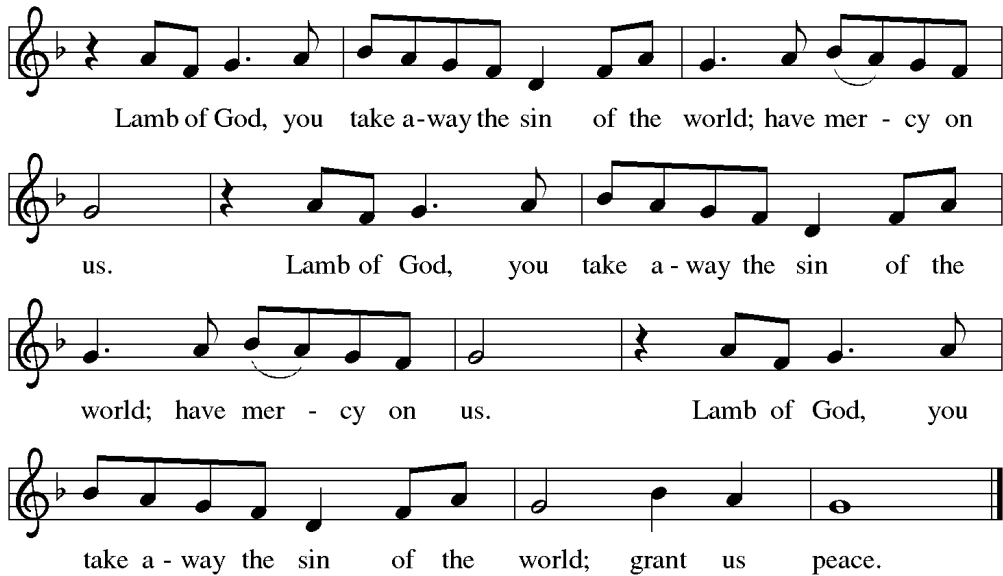
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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 to the banquet, for all is now ready!

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN "Lamb of God" ELW p. 135



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.

## **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:

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**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 My Life Flows On In Endless Song ELW 763**

1 My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
 while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
 how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
 I hear that music ringing.  
 It finds an echo in my soul.  
 How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3 What though my joys and comforts die?  
 The Lord my Savior liveth.  
 What though the darkness gather round?  
 Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
 a fountain ever springing!  
 All things are mine since I am his!  
 How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Ryan Heckman, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

**Assistant Minister:** Terry Gustafson

**Lector:** Mike Beaudoin

**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.*

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**

### **Monday, September 11, 2023**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

6:45 Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Summer Bells

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, September 14, 2023**

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

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

### **Sunday, September 17, 2023;** 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

3:00 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Concert