



**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

**October 22, 2023**  
**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

**+GATHERING+**

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

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* J.S. Bach

**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 O God of Every Nation ELW 713**

- 1 O God of ev'ry nation,  
of ev'ry race and land,  
redeem your whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.
- 2 From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way,  
deliver ev'ry nation,  
eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Lord, strengthen all who labor  
that all may find release

from fear of rattling saber,  
 from dread of war's increase;  
 when hope and courage falter,  
 Lord, let your voice be heard;  
 with faith that none can alter,  
 your servants undergird.

- 4 Keep bright in us the vision  
 of days when war shall cease,  
 when hatred and division  
 give way to love and peace,  
 fill dawns the morning glorious  
 when truth and love shall reign,  
 and Christ shall rule victorious  
 o'er all the world's domain.

## **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.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live  
 in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you,  
 let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**FIRST READING****Isaiah 45:1-7**

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
 whose right hand I have grasped  
 to subdue nations before him  
 and strip kings of their robes,  
 to open doors before him—  
 and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
 and level the mountains,  
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
 and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
 and riches hidden in secret places,  
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
 and Israel my chosen,  
 I call you by your name,  
 I surname you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
 besides me there is no god.  
 I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
 7 I form light and create darkness,  
 I make weal and create woe;  
 I the LORD do all these things.

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

**PSALM Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
 sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
 and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
 more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
 power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
 bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
 tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
 The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will  
 judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all

that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,  
O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

## **SECOND READING            1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

A reading from Thessalonians

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had

among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

*Alleluia.* Shine like stars | in the world,\* holding fast to the | word of life. *Alleluia.* (Phil. 2:15, 16)

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 22:15-22

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to



pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

**ELW 580**

- 1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.
- 2 But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind  
and life itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.
- 3 We marvel how your saints become  
in hindrances more sure;  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
 together or alone,  
 in old routines or ventures new,  
 may we not cease to look to you,  
 the cross you hung upon,  
 all you endeavored done.

## **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** Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**A** Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**A** Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**A** Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering, especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Jim, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Trudi, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Marie, Jean, Tracey, Donna, Michael, Pat, Robert, Karen, Marilyn, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts. (Pause for silence). Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy.

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

**A** Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters.

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

**A** Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

**A** Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; 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.*

**Organ Voluntary on *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table* ACS 977**  
**Arr. K. E. Black**

**OFFERTORY HYMN on *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending* ELW 678**  
St. 1

## God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,  
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;  
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;  
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.  
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.  
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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## 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. 108**

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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. 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**

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. 112

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.

## 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 HYMN    God of Grace and God of Glory                    ELW 705**

- 1    God of grace and God of glory,  
       on your people pour your pow'r;  
       crown your ancient church's story;  
       bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
       Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
       for the facing of this hour,  
       for the facing of this hour.
  
- 2    Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
       scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
       From the fears that long have bound us  
       free our hearts to faith and praise.  
       Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
       for the living of these days,

for the living of these days,

- 3 Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, October 22, 2023**

Rev. Les Swenson, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

**Assistant Minister:** Jill Little

**Lector:** Arlene Creswell

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

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

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

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### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

#### **Monday, October 23, 2023**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

7:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church Bible Study via zoom

#### **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

6:45 Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Reformation Choir

8:00 p.m. Voice Choir

#### **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### **Thursday, October 26, 2023**

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

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

#### **Sunday, October 29, 2023; Reformation Sunday**

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour