

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ JANUARY 22, 2023

The Beginning of the End



Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

We Live in and Share God's Love with All

**Unconditional Love ~ Radical Hospitality ~ Selfless Generosity
Faithful Service ~ Compassionate Care ~ Meaningful Worship**

No Matter Where You Are on Life's Journey, There Is a Place for You Here!

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender identity, race, culture, ability, or sexual orientation into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each to participate in the life of our church.

- ❖ **Welcome to worship. We are SO glad you are here.** If this is your first time worshipping with us, please reach out and let us know, either introduce yourself in the YouTube Livestream, to an usher, to Pastor Sonja or by contacting the church office so we can answer any questions and connect with you. There is a place for you here.
- ❖ **Pass the Welcome Folder.** Please take the folder on the end of our pew, fill out your information and pass them down the pew.
- ❖ **Offering.** Offerings may be placed in the offering plate located on the table in the middle of the aisle before or at any time during the worship service.
- ❖ **Prayer Requests.** Prayer slips are in the back of the Welcome Folder to fill out and drop in the basket on the table by the offering plate. *Prayer requests will be included during the intercessory prayers.*
- ❖ **Hearing Assisting Devices Available.** Visit the Sound Booth before worship and request a device.
- ❖ **Bathrooms.** Down the hall, turn left toward the offices, and then take your first right. An all-gender/family bathroom is available on the east side of Fellowship Hall (to the right as you enter from the main door). A changing table is available in the all-gender/family bathroom and also in the nursery.
- ❖ **We LOVE kids in worship!** Should you need to step away, there is a nursery down the hall from the restrooms with a changing table, toys, and comfy seating for parents.
- ❖ **Bulletins can be recycled** in the bins in the narthex with the Green Recycle Labels.
- ❖ **Hymns with harmony lines are available in our hymnal** (the red books in the shelves in each pew). You are welcomed and encouraged to use the hymnals!
- ❖ **Want weekly updates about events at St. Andrews?** Email office@standrewames.org and indicate you would like to receive the Friday Flash. The Friday Flash includes a weekly message from Pastor Sonja, events coming up in the following week, and opportunities to participate in service and outreach through St. Andrew's and our local, national, and global partners.

Helpful Hints for worship today:

- ❖ *The instructions to sit or stand are invitations to do so as you are physically able.*
- ❖ *In the worship liturgy P = Presider, A = Assisting Minister, R = Reader, and C = Congregation. The congregation responds/sings any time words are in **bold** print. The congregation is invited to sing all Hymns.*

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

Stand

CONFESSION OF FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,
C: **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

P: Thus says our God:
"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."
God's mercy makes us new.
We are forgiven in the name of ✠ Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - mighty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

GREETING

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

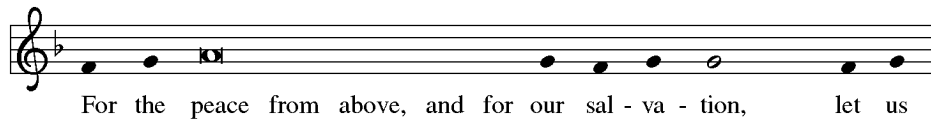
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

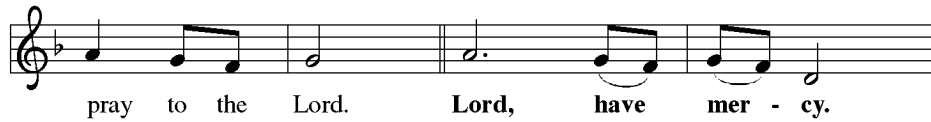
Assisting Minister (congregation sings the lines in **bold**):



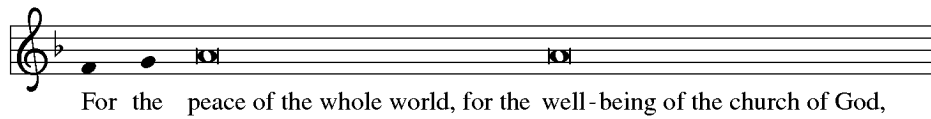
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



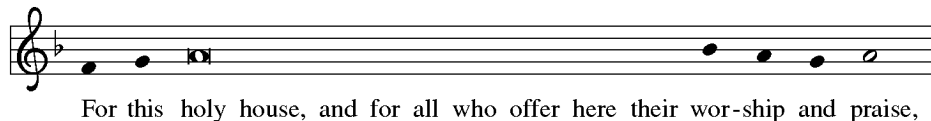
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Sit

CHOIR ANTHEM

Holy, Holy, Holy

Franz Schubert

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:6-11

R: ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction.

When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 27: 1, 4-9

*(Read responsively, congregation reads **bold** verses.)*

A: ¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C: ⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

A: ⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

C: ⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

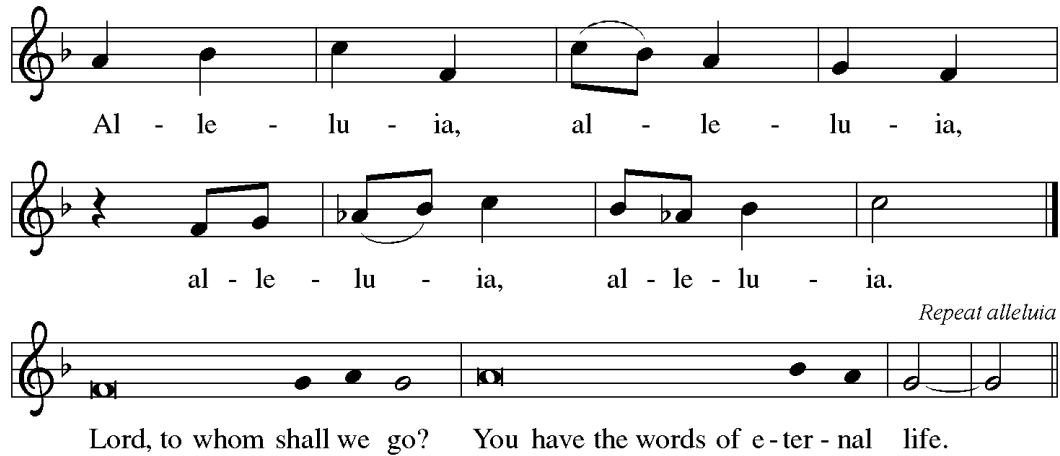
A: ⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

C: ⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

A: ⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

P: The Gospel according to the 1st Chapter of John:C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.***Sit*

SERMON

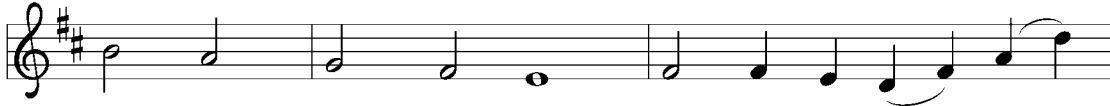
Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger

Stand

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - e to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Sit

Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed January 18-25. The theme for 2023 is "Do Good; Seek Justice" (Isaiah 1:17). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a response to Christ's prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). It is an eight-day period of prayer in which all Christians are invited to participate. The week is celebrated each year from January 18-25, concluding on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

P: Let us together confess the ways we are divided and seek to be reconciled:

We gather as the people of God
to offer our repentance and praise,
to pray for the unity of the church
and the renewal of our common life.
Trusting in God's mercy and compassion,
let us ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us
to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

P: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds
of pride and intolerance.
Christ, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

P: Lord Jesus, you pardon the sinner
and welcome the repentant.
Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

P: May almighty God grant us pardon and peace,
strengthen us in faith,
and make us witnesses to Christ's love.

C: Amen.

P: God our Father, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and concord we may carry to the world the message of your love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **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: Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

P: The Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples.
We look for the day when the church will shine forth
in unity at his holy supper.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Sit

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

At this time, we offer a portion of what God has first given us for God's work in the world through the ministries of St. Andrew's and its national and global partners. You may place offerings in the offering plate located on the table in the aisle. You can also give online at www.standrewsames.org by selecting Give Online (or use this QR code). Thank you for your continued generous support of the ministries in and through St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.



OFFERTORY

Jean Francois Dandrieu

OFFERING PRAYER

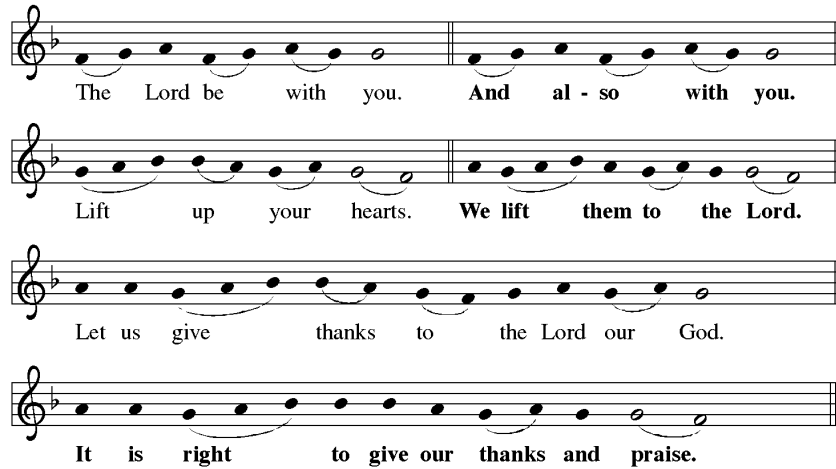
A: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: **Amen.**

Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

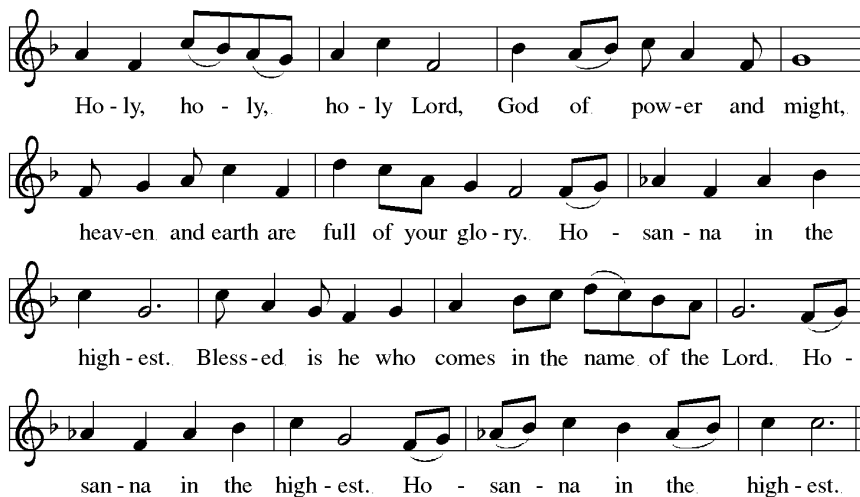


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C:



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: ... We look with hope for his coming.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: ... one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

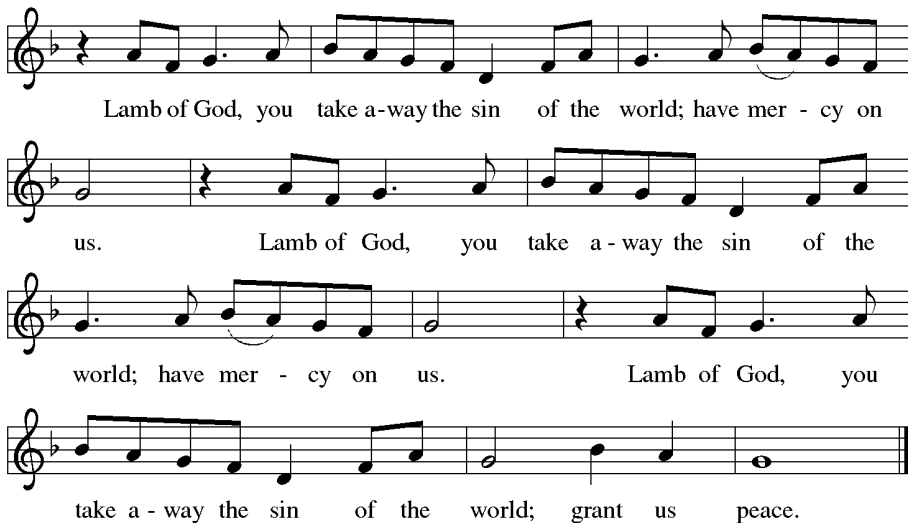
Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is Jesus' table, and all are welcome. Those worshiping in person are invited to come down the center aisle, to the front, receive the bread, and step to the side to receive red wine or white grape juice from the assistants. Gluten-free wafers are available in the glass bowl on the table in the front. Please take one and bring it with you. If you prefer not to come forward, prepackaged communion elements are available from the ushers.

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

C:



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.

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email or speak with the presiding pastor before worship each week if you would like to make an announcement at this time.

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Cortege

G. F. Handel

Thank you from Lisa Downs, Blessings From The Heart

I first want to give my praise to God for blessing me with a way to create the Blessings From The Heart program and also my heartfelt thanks to God and each and every one of you for your generosity and help in making the December 18 BFTH Holiday Event a blessing to many. Thank you for your partnership and blessings of wish lists, many ways of volunteering, purchasing holiday meal bags, hosting, and the support; as we all understand, it takes many to do God's work.

St. Andrew's, along with many businesses and individual sponsors, gave the Blessings From The Heart program an opportunity to bless and fill 108 wish lists in addition to blessing 34 families and individuals with a holiday meal bag in December 2022.

I have received some beautiful messages, videos, and pictures from recipients of the program that felt extremely blessed by the gifts and food. Please know that these families and individuals would not have had a gift to open or a meal on Christmas day without the blessing of many working together.

I plan to continue my work with the Blessings From the Heart program year-round if I am able, and I hope that St. Andrew's will continue a partnership. In this way, we can together continue to show love and support in Ames and surrounding communities as needs are expressed. I hear many story of needs every day as I work in non-profit, and many times, I feel God sends someone to me and is asking me to help. The needs are very real.

Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality.

Proverbs 14:21 Blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

Blessings,

Lisa Downs



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

We Live in and Share God's Love with All

Office Open: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 3:30 pm, Friday, 9 am – 12 pm

Pastor – Rev. Sonja Gerstenberger – pastorsonja@standrewsames.org
515-292-2131 or 515-554-4348 / Pastor Sonja's day off is Friday.

Office Administrator – Miriam Moreno – office@standrewsames.org / (515) 292-2131

Business Manager – Dave Krumm – businessmanager@standrewsames.org

Events & Communications Manager – Miriam Moreno – miriam@standrewsames.org / 515-451-1478

Choir Director – Steve Hoifeldt – shoifeldt@standrewsames.org

Organist – Sarah Buck – sarahbbuck@yahoo.com

Accompanist – Connie Sweeney – cmsweeney.mus@gmail.com

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