

SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 14, 2025
***Third Sunday of
Advent***



PROMISE, PRAYER, POSSIBILITY
Luke 11:1

3101 W Cholla Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85029
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www.saintandrewaz.org

Find us on Facebook, St. Andrew Lutheran Church AZ

**Welcome to worship as we come together in praise and thanksgiving
to our living Savior!**

Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power.

Open our hearts to follow your call.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

❖ **Prelude**

❖ **Welcome**

❖ **Special Music Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

❖ **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**Congregation: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and
homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight
of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing
of Christmas songs.**

L: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light
the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help
us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only
have to look for it.

C: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen

(Light the third candle of the advent wreath)

❖ **Advent Song Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel**

Handbells

❖ **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Beloved in Christ, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep
those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We
don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things
under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we
need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy
selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there
is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray:

(time for personal reflection and prayer)

L: Courageous God,

**C: you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to
trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes!" We often hide our
face. We dig in our heels. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark
courage in us.**

Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.

Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

L: Beloved in Christ, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

C: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

❖ **Sharing of God's Peace**

L: The peace of God be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

❖ **Greeting**

L: 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.

❖ **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray:

C: Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

❖ **First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10**

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

❖ **Gospel Acclamation** **Alleluia No. V**

❖ **Gospel** **Luke 1:26-39**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country...

L: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

❖ **Children’s Message**

❖ **Hymn of the Day** **O Come, Take Heart**

❖ **Sermon** **Pastor Kari Williamson**

❖ **Choir Anthem** **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

❖ **Words of Faith**

L: Let us join our hearts and voices together using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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 the People**

❖ **Offering**

❖ **Offertory Hymn** **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** **ELW 254**

❖ **Prayer of Blessing**

L: Let us pray:

C: God of joy, receive these gifts and bless them to bring laughter where there is sorrow, music where there is silence, and courage where fear holds sway. May our giving be a song of praise to You, the source of all joy. Amen.

GOD COMES TO US AT THE MEAL

❖ **Words of Institution**

❖ **Lord's Prayer**

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

❖ **Communion Distribution**

❖ **Communion Hymn** **Fling Wide the Door** **ELW 259**

❖ **Prayer After Communion**

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. Amen.

Let us pray:

C: Loving God, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, amen.

❖ **Blessing**

L: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with— go in peace and be not afraid.

C: Amen

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

❖ **Sending Hymn** **Christ, Be Our Light, vs. 1, 2, and 5** **ELW 715**

❖ **Sending**

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God. We will.

welcome

Thank you for joining us for worship. A special welcome to our guests. If you are interested in learning more about Saint Andrew, please feel free to call Pastor Kari at 602-942-5811

Thank you to our worship leaders:

Director of Music and Worship: Chip Love

<i>Reader:</i>	<i>Helen Entze</i>
<i>Worship Assistant:</i>	<i>Joy McCormick</i>
<i>Communion Assistant:</i>	<i>Jen Flategraff</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Frank Gaber</i>
	<i>Linda Gaber</i>

<i>Audio-Visual:</i>	<i>David DeLano</i>
	<i>Joy McCormick</i>
	<i>Alan Brown</i>
	<i>Andrea Lee</i>
	<i>Christian Beamer</i>
	<i>Valerie Moreno</i>

Congregational Meeting

Today

Following Worship



Cholla/Lakeview Outreach

Please join the Outreach Team on
Friday, December 19th

We will serve Coffee and Hot Chocolate to the
parents of Cholla and Lakeview students as
we share the Christmas Promise of Jesus! We
will meet at the church at 6:00am.

Dress warm!