

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

August 23, 2026
Elder Ceresee Sweeley, Liturgist
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Saved, Saved!

JEFF GILBREATH

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Naomi and Ruth's story does not end with a wedding, but with a name.

All: A son is born, and the women of the town say, "A restorer of life has come."

One: What was empty is full again. What looked lost has found a home.

All: We gather to praise the God who does not let go of ordinary people or their unfinished stories.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord.

All: We worship the God whose steadfast love brings new life, even in unexpected places!

* GATHERING HYMN #643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

GATHERING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who makes things new, we would rather keep the story as it is, rather than risk letting you rewrite it. We hold onto old grudges because letting go feels like losing. We stay in patterns we've outgrown because change is harder than complaint. We tell ourselves nothing really changes, and then we live like that's true. Forgive us for choosing the comfort of what we already know over the life you keep offering. Forgive us, and stir in us the desire to accept the new life you offer. Amen. (Silent Confession)

HYMN OF RESPONSE #833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

*O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depth its flow may richer, fuller be.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's steadfast love is at work within us. What is broken is already being made whole.

All: In Jesus Christ, our redemption is complete. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

CHOIR ANTHEM #108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ARR. BY DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 4:1-22

SERMON

"New Life"

* HYMN #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (v 1-2, 5-6)

ST. ANNE

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call for the Offering

(The offering plate is not passed but is located on the stand outside the sanctuary doors.)

Offertory

He Lifted Me

JEFF GILBREATH

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

* Prayer of Dedication

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Redeemed

JEFF GILBREATH

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW!

Whether you are a first-time guest, a long-time member, or somewhere in between, know that you are welcome in this place. We are so glad you are here, and we hope that your time in worship this morning draws you closer to God and to God's people. Our journeys of faith are not just lived on Sunday mornings, so we invite you to also join us in the fellowship and ministry of our congregation. Rev. Tripp is available to answer any questions you might have after worship, by email (tripp@standrewdecatur.org), or by phone. There is a place for you here!

THIS WEEK TOGETHER

Wednesday, August 26th

4:30 PM Choir

5:30 PM CONNECT w/Lincoln Kallas

Sunday, August 30th

8:45 AM Combined Sunday School

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP: THE LORD'S DAY

The Service for the Lord's Day is a service of Word and Sacrament. We meet in the presence of the living Lord, who appeared to his disciples on the first day of the week — the day he rose from the dead — to interpret the scriptures and break bread. Following Jesus' example, the Church proclaims the fullness of the gospel in Word and Sacrament on the Lord's Day.

The Service for the Lord's Day includes other actions as well: gathering and singing, confession and pardon, prayer and offering, blessing, and sending. Through all these actions, we are drawn into Christ's presence and sent out in the power of the Spirit.

The order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church's encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world. Our order of worship for the Service for the Lord's Day is rooted in scripture, the traditions of the universal Church, and our Reformed heritage. In particular, it seeks to uphold the centrality of Word and Sacraments in the Church's faith, life, and worship.



STEADFAST LOVE

A Sermon Series on Ruth and Esther

August 23, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
256-355-6310
www.standrewdecaturn.org

Scripture Reading, Ceresee Sweeley: Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Ruth 4:1-22

No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin, of whom Boaz had spoken, came passing by. So Boaz said, “Come over, friend; sit down here.” And he went over and sat down. Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, “Sit down here”; so they sat down. He then said to the next-of-kin, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. So I thought I would tell you of it, and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here, and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you.” So he said, “I will redeem it.” Then Boaz said, “The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance.” At this, the next-of-kin said, “I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.” Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So when the next-of-kin said to Boaz, “Acquire it for yourself,” he took off his sandal.

Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.” Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.