

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor  
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

August 30, 2026  
Elder Barb Mouton, Liturgist  
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

ARR. BY CINDY BERRY

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Nellie Gates

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the book of Esther, God's name is never spoken, but God's hand is everywhere in it.

**All: We come trusting the same is true of us: that God is at work, even when we can't see it plainly.**

One: Esther faced a choice that could cost her everything. Mordecai told her, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this?"

**All: We too are asked to notice: maybe we are here, now, for a reason.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

**All: We worship the Lord who calls us for such a time as this!**

### \* GATHERING HYMN #275

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

GATHERING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God who calls us into hard moments, we confess that we count the cost before we count the need.

We stay safely uninvolved when someone needs us to step forward. We tell ourselves someone else will handle it. Forgive our hesitation. Forgive the times we protected ourselves instead of standing with someone else. Give us the nerve Esther found, not because we're fearless, but because we trust you're already in the moment we're afraid of. 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 always at work within us, forgiving us and redeeming us.

**All: In Christ, we are already held, already forgiven, and already free to act. 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 9:23-24

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 4:1-17

### SERMON

*"For a Moment Like This"*

\* HYMN #307

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

## 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

*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

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 #69

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

HERE I AM (Schutte)

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

*Surely Goodness and Mercy*

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](mailto:tripp@standrewdecatur.org)), or by phone. There is a place for you here!

## **THIS WEEK TOGETHER**

*Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>*

10:00 AM Presbyterian Women

*Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>*

1:00 PM Caring Hands

*Sunday, September 6*

CCC Food Pantry Collection

## **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

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A Sermon Series on Ruth and Esther

August 30, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor  
256-355-6310  
[www.standrewdecaturn.org](http://www.standrewdecaturn.org)

### **Scripture Reading, Barb Mouton: Luke 9:23-24**

Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

### **Scripture Reading, Rev. Brogdon: Esther 4:1-17**

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. When Esther’s maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them.

Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a

time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.