



[Rev. Steven S. Billings](#)

**Sermon for The Feast of St. Andrew**  
November 30, 2025

## Come and See

### John 1:35–42a

<sup>35</sup> Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?”

They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”

<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

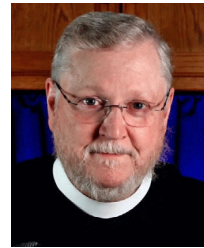
<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus.

If anyone was ever on the outside looking in, it had to be the Apostle Andrew, whose feast we celebrate today. His brother Peter would become one of the Lord's most intimate disciples; Andrew, not so much. But he’s one for whom we would do well to give thanks to God for the witness that he bore, especially to his brother.

John the Baptist had pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God and two of his disciples, one of whom was Andrew, began that very moment to follow the Lord. Jesus asked them, “What do you seek?” (v. 38a). Andrew and the other disciple asked where He was staying. He told them, “Come and see” (v. 39a). They came and saw and stayed with Him. They beheld the Lord.

Later on, Andrew sought out his brother Simon and announced, “We have found the Messiah” (v. 41). Can you imagine the conversation they must have had? Simon Peter would ask where this Messiah was. Can you hear Andrew echoing the words of Jesus, “Come and see”? Eventually, Andrew brought Simon to the Lord, who called him Peter for the bold confession of faith he would make. He came and saw. He beheld the Lord.

They were not the only ones to behold the Lord as He came to them. Hopefully, you have come here today to see the Lord. And just as Andrew and Peter beheld Him in hidden form as true Man, we behold Him today as He comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. We’ve heard the Word of the Lord: “Come and see.” And we’ve come to His house. We’ve seen Him in His Word. We’ve heard Him in the reading and preaching of the Scriptures.



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But, what does it mean? Seeing our Lord, albeit in hidden form, means everything for us, and it ought to mean everything *to* us, for His coming means that He gives us His forgiveness. And with His forgiveness He also gives eternal life and salvation to all who have come to the knowledge of the truth, which is Jesus Christ Himself. This is good news for us as we begin anew our Advent journey to the manger, just as it was good news to Andrew and Peter.

But why was it good news for them? For the same reason it is to us. They too were sinners who fell short of the glory of God. Peter would deny the Lord three times. Andrew would doubt His ability to feed 5,000 men with five barley loaves and two small fish (Jn. 6:9). Their faith was put to the test, and they failed – repeatedly. But they came and saw. They saw Him feed the 5,000. They saw Him walk on the water. They saw Him raise the dead. They saw Him give His body and blood at the Last Supper. They heard Him teach the multitudes in parables. They heard Him teach *them* plainly and understandably. They still sinned against the Lord. They didn't place their full trust in Him. Their hearts were heavy and their heads were hard. They didn't accept what the Lord had done and said for them. They came and saw, but they were still confused.

Sound familiar? It ought to. How often do we come and see the Lord – and yet drag our foolish baggage with us? Do we not come here with our aches, our pains, our hurts, our doubts, and our fears? Do we not come here and see the Lord and yet return to our homes with those troubles undiminished, so consumed by them that we lose sight of the one thing needful, which is to hear the Word of the Lord and be comforted by it? Is it not true that our eyes are fixed, not on Jesus, but on the stormy sea around us? Is it any wonder that we sink beneath the waves? Oh, beloved, our eyes need to be focused instead on the Author and Finisher of our faith. We need to look to Bethlehem's stable and see the Child born to save us. We need to look to the cross and see where He won our forgiveness and hope. We need to look to that glorious future, the day when He returns in great power and glory to take us to Himself in our own resurrection from the dead. O beloved, come and see. Cast aside the burdens weighing you down and let them melt away in the light of His presence.

Come and see the cattle stall where the Word made flesh lay in swaddling clothes. Come and see the dusty roads He trod as He made Himself known to the children of man. Come and see the cross, where your Lord died for you, where His body hung and His blood flowed. Come and see that He has won your forgiveness by being condemned, that He has gained for you eternal life by His death. Yes, come and see the empty tomb where His body lay no more. "See the place where they laid Him" (Mk. 16:6b). But do not only see; listen and hear the angel, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen, just as He said" (Mk. 16:6a), for His resurrection has won our hope – hope to cope with what life throws at us; hope in the resurrection of the body and the life



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everlasting.

You should know by now that life will not be perfect with the Lord as your Shepherd, but He makes life more bearable, for He bore everything for us, including our sin. He has removed your sin, O forgiven child of God. Come and see where He gives you this forgiveness, life, and salvation. Come and see the font, where your Lord marked you as His own with the sign of the holy cross, washing your sins away with the water and the Word of God. Come and see the pulpit, from whence our Lord gives you His Word of forgiveness as it is read and proclaimed in your hearing. Come and see the altar, where we receive the Lord's body and blood, given and poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

Come and see the One whom Andrew introduced to his brother. Come and see the One who came to you hidden in human flesh to bear your sins and to be your Savior. Come and see the One who once lay in a manger, the Babe of Bethlehem, as we with the shepherds "see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us" (Lk. 2:15b). Come, see, and receive all that God longs to give you. In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen