



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

WELCOME

to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

a member of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God
with our whole heart, mind, and soul, and
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Cadillac, MI

We strive to live out the Great
Commandment: To love the Lord with all
our heart, soul, and mind and to love our
neighbors as ourselves.

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.

If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home,
we'd love to get to know you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as able.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal, #56,v1-3

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lighting the Way Advent Devotional

As the first candle is lit, all say

All A candle is a lovely thing to light for Him today.

A brave new candle straight and tall to make the darkness light.

As the second candle is lit, all say

All So fine was He, so tall and straight that all the world was lit,

A pathway widening out ahead, as he walked into it.

As the third candle is lit, all say

All Candles burning in the night, are symbols of the one

Who shed a glow of radiant light until His work was done.

As the fourth candle is lit, all say

All Four candles now are shining bright in loveliness and cheer,

To help us all remember that Christ's Birthday now is near.

Leader To accept the great gift of Christmas, your son Jesus;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader To listen quietly that we might hear the message of the angels,
Peace on earth, Good will to men;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader That we might follow the example of the shepherds
and seek the Christ Child, wherever he may be;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader That we, like Christ, may grow in stature, wisdom and in your favor;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

The Collect of the Day

Bulletin Insert

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. *The celebrant prays the collect of the day.*

The Lessons

Bulletin Insert

First Reading

Micha 5:2-5a

After the reading: Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

After the reading: Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn *All stand as able.*

Hymnal, #265

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45, [46-55]

Before the Gospel:

Celebrant Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel:

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Nicene Creed *Said in unison, all standing as able.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayer

Intercessor May our hearts leap for joy as we again assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming. With Mary, may our souls proclaim God's greatness as we say, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

Let us pray for the church: As the celebration of your incarnation draws near, we remember the many ways your revelation is lifted up in the world and we pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world, and especially for those whose very faith endangers their lives.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. St. Paul's, Saginaw - Judy, Rector; Holy Trinity, Wyoming – Rob, Senior Warden; Church of the Nativity, Boyne City - Kathryn, Senior Warden. We pray for all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, both lay and ordained. In particular, we pray for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Priests, including Abraham, John, Laurie, Jonathan, Kathryn, Stephanie, Thon, Jess, Julianne, Matt, Cathy, Kris, Theresa, Janet. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Jennifer, Chris, Laura, Deb, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: As you lead us, Lord, from darkness to light, may we be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, rooting out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your arm. *Silence*
Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We pray for those in positions of authority in our country and in the world, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Fred, our mayor. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For our own spirits: may our hearts be magnified and made much bigger than we think possible. May this season of Advent stir in us such faith that we exert ourselves to be your light in a darkened world.
Silence Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For this community: may we be enriched by welcoming the stranger and be drawn to a bright future in service to you, while also remembering and honoring those in the past who guided us into faith.
Silence Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the sick and suffering. May they find healing and peace. Especially we pray for those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Betty, Donna, Marty, Rachel, Gordon, Katsi, Kris, Bob, Bill, Janie, Bill, Scott & Laura, Harry & Melissa, Chris, Jerry, Helen & Raymond Jr., Raymond Sr; For those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer; J.P., Erin, Jimmy, Keith, Ken, Jerry & Karlene, Kelsay, Heather, Joey, Bruce; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Wesley, Owen, Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*
Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the dead and those on the threshold of death, confident in your promise to be with us always. May they and we be welcomed into the place of glory our Lord has prepared for us. *Silence*
Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord, we gather up the prayers of this household, confident in your promise to be with us always. Guide us in wisdom and faith; that we might live into the life created for us, trusting in your will. All this we ask through your Son, our redeemer, Jesus, who is your Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God

Silence may be kept.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace *All stand as able.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory *The celebrant says the offertory sentence.*

While the offertory plates are brought to the altar, all sing: **The Doxology**



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low;



Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Hymnal, #S-125

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Andrew & Mary all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *said in unison*

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then all sing:

The Fraction




Hymnal, #S-158





The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome at God's table.

Please come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion. Return to your pew by the side aisle. If you need communion brought to you, let an usher know.

| THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD - You can either, | | |
|--|-------------|---|
|  | CONSUME | Hold out your hands and then eat the bread after it is placed in your hand. |
|  | GLUTEN-FREE | If you require a gluten-free wafer, please clasp your hands. |
|  | BLESSING | If you prefer not to receive, cross your arms for a blessing. |

| THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE - You can either, | | |
|---|---------------|---|
|  | DRINK | Hold the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips to drink the wine. |
|  | INTINCT | Hold up the bread. The minister will take the bread, dip it for you, and hand it back to you. |
|  | NOT RECEIVE | Cross your arms. The minister will hold the chalice up, but you will not drink. |
|  | NON-ALCOHOLIC | If you require non-alcoholic wine, clasp your hands. After drinking, hand the cup back. |

Communion Hymn

Hymnal, #76

Prayer after Communion

All stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

All stand as able while the celebrant blesses the people.

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal, #66

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Today's altar flowers are given by Mtr. Radha Kaminski to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for all the people of St. Andrew's and St. Mary's.

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In case of an emergency need for pastoral care call: Mtr. Radha Kaminski 352-727-8927