



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

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, #68

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.**

Song of Praise

All Earth is Hopeful, Bulletin Insert

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Illustrated Ministry

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth. Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

Light the first candle.

When we are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, the peace of Christ may be found. We welcome the peace of Christ, present among us and available to all. We light the candle of peace, because peace has come to us.

Light the second candle.

Whether we find ourselves in the dark, cozy realm of nighttime or the blazing brightness of day, God's good message of joy has come to us to cheer our hearts. We light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

Light the third candle.

Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was also gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And this mighty force compelled Jesus to demonstrate his love in his transformative message and sacrificial life.

Today we light the candle of love, which reminds us that when all else fails, when hope seems lost, when the night seems eternal, love remains. And love wins.

Light the fourth candle.

All **Welcome, love of Christ, which shows us how to care for each other, sacrifice for one another, and fully embrace ourselves. Expand our capacity to love more like Jesus loved. Amen.**

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 *Texts found in the bulletin insert.*

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

After the reading Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

After the reading Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

All stand as able.

He Came Down, Bulletin Insert

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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.**

Homily

Mtr. Radha Kaminski

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

Praying the Scriptures

Intercessor Sisters and brothers, the Lord is with you! Let us pray to the Almighty, saying, My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord; **our spirits rejoice in you!** God our Savior, give to your Church the humble heart of Mary. In our lives and ministries, let it be with us according to your word. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant; the Diocesan Staff of Eastern and Western Michigan. 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 Barrett, Alex, Matt, Anne Marie, Abraham,

John, Stephanie, Thon, Jessica, Julianne, Rachel, Cathy, Kathryn, Kris, Johnathan, Theresa. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Mary, Deb, Laura, Jennifer, Christi, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

Intercessor God our Savior, give grace to your bishops, priests, and deacons. Strengthen all your ministries according to the proclamations of Jesus Christ. *Silence* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

Intercessor God our Savior, you cast down the mighty from their thrones and lift up the lowly. May both the mighty and the lowly, and all those in-between, experience the amazing depth of your great mercy. *Silence* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

Intercessor God our Savior, you long for the hungry to be filled with good things. Bless us to work with you to bring forth good food and drink from your precious earth. *Silence* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

Intercessor God our Savior we ask you to do great things in our city, in our neighborhoods, in our region. *Silence* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

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* My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People **Our spirits rejoice in you!**

Intercessor God our Savior, you ever remember your promise of mercy. Be merciful to the lonely, despised, sorrowful, and sick. Speak good news into sad hearts; come to the help of the needy. We pray for those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, Jeffrey, Rodger & Judy, Elizabeth, Robert, Rob, Jessica, Krystal, Kevin, Kathy, Sharyn, Howie; For those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Erin, Dorothea, Lonnie & Heather, Mike & Connie, Virginia, Renee, Larry & Therese, Janet, Lawson, Josh & Lindsey, Nancy & Pat, Sally, Madi, Larry, Ron & Barb, Shanna, Charlene, DeeDee, Anita & Jim, Terri, Larry, Ron, Shelly; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*

My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People Our spirits rejoice in you!

Intercessor God our savior, nothing is impossible with you. May all those who have died find a place in the eternal kingdom of your Christ. *Silence*

My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

People Our spirits rejoice in you!

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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.

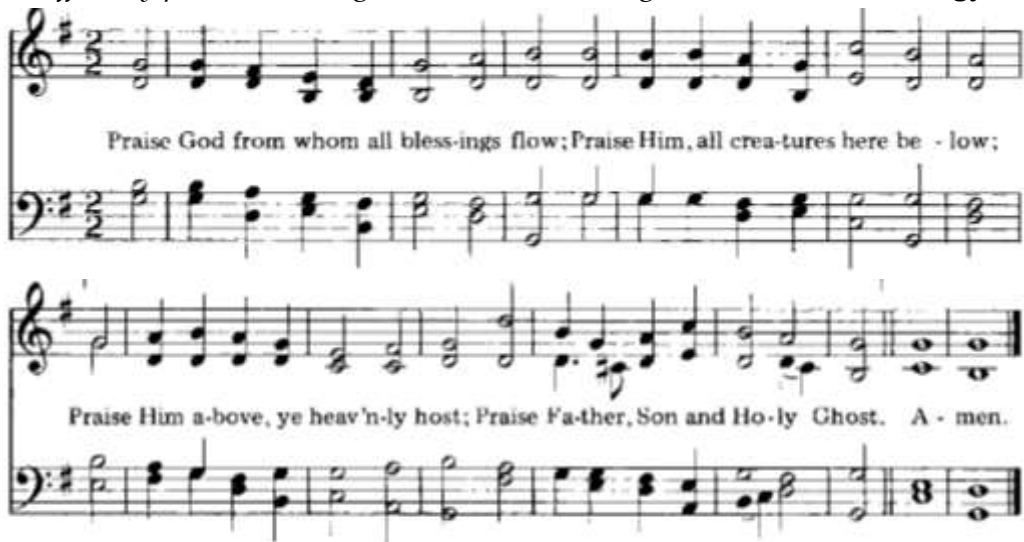
The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

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 blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TEXT: Thomas Ken
MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; attributed to Louis Bourgeois

OLD HUNDRETH
L.M.

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.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal, #78

Postcommunion Prayer

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, #74 v1-3

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.



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