



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

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.

MORNING PRAYER: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #68v1-3

Opening Sentence

Officiant Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Hymnal #56v7-8

Confession and Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All kneel as able. 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.

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand as able.

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People And your glory all the day long.

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Invitatory Psalm: Psalm 67:1-5

All Our God and Savior now draws near: O come let us worship.

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18

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After the Psalm:

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Lessons

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First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle C: The Song of Hannah, 1 Samuel 2:1-8

Said in unison

**All My heart exults in you, O God; *
 my triumph song is lifted in you.
 My mouth derides my enemies, *
 for I rejoice in your salvation.
 There is none holy like you, *
 nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.
 Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; *
 Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.
 The bows of the mighty are broken, *
 but the weak are clothed in strength.
 Those once full now labor for bread, *
 those who hungered now are well fed.
 The childless woman has borne sevenfold, *
 while the mother of many is forlorn.
 God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; *
 gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.
 God raises the poor from the dust; *
 and lifts the needy from the ash heap
 To make them sit with the rulers *
 and inherit a place of honor.
 For the pillars of the earth are God's *
 on which the whole earth is founded.**

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People Thanks be to God.

Canticle R: A Song of True Motherhood, *Julian of Norwich*

Said in unison

All God chose to be our mother in all things *
 and so made the foundation of his work,
 most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.
 God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
 arrayed himself in this humble place.
 Christ came in our poor flesh *
 to share a mother's care.
 Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
 our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.
 Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
 until the full time of his passion.
 And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, *
 still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.
 All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
 for the love of Christ works in us;
 Christ is the one whom we love.

Third Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People Thanks be to God.

Reflection *The reflection may be a time of silence, a homily, or reading of a text.*

The Apostles' Creed

Said by all, standing as able.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel as able.

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages A

Officiant Help us, O God our Savior;
People Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

Officiant Look upon your congregation;
People Give to your people the blessing of peace.

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;
People And your wonders among all peoples.

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
People Never forget the lives of your poor.

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
People And your favor to those who are true of heart.

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

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Hymn at the Prayers

Hymnal #265

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us appeal to the Lord, praying, “Restore us, O God of hosts; **show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved**”.

We ask you , O God, to bless our Church. Give us your grace. Stir up your strength and come to help us even as we declare the gospel concerning your Son. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional; Anne, our Canon Missioner; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant; St. Paul’s, Flint - Barbara, Sr. Warden, Trinity Church, Grand Ledge – Gail, Rector,

Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan – Corwin, Priest Associate. 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 Joe, Barrett, Alex, Matt, and Anne Marie. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Abraham, John, Stephanie, Thon, Jennifer, Justin, Jessica, Julianne, Beckett, Rachel, John, Linda, Cathy, Dell, Theresa. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People **Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless this nation. May our leaders not trust in their own strength but in you, O God of hosts. Teach us to refuse the evil and choose the good. 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*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People **Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless this planet. By your creative power bring forth new life in the places in which we have reaped too much or sown too little. *Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People **Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.**

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless our city. Let your hand be upon us. Guide and strengthen all those who find themselves in difficult situations—especially young and single parents. *Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless all those who are distressed. Hear their prayers, O Shepherd of the flock. May they take comfort in the knowledge that you are with them. We pray for those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Michelle & Anne, Karen, Sally, Jeanne, Nan, Ollie, Sharyn, Susie, Marty, Rachel, & Doug, Bob, Jill, Shelley, Raymond & Carolyn, Carlson Family; For those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Heather & Lonnie & Family, Jamie, Virginia, Dahilia, Lynda, Barb, Kyle, Sherry, Lorie, Reggie, Linda, Anne & Steve, Cindy, Larry, Lisa, Lorie, Deliala, Norm, Jerry; 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*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Intercessor We ask you, O God, to bless all who have died, especially Lisa and Dan. Welcome into your heavenly kingdom all who are called to be saints. *Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;

People Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Officiant All these things we have spoken, and those which we name in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

For a Birthday

BCP, 830, #50

For an Anniversary

BCP, 431, first prayer

Travelers

BCP 831, #53

Closing Hymn

Hymnal #74v1-3

Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Today's altar flowers are given this morning by Mary Frew to the glory of god and in memory of Sarah Frew & members of the Galbraith family who have passed.



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