



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

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 1982, #57v1-3

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

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.**

Jubilate

Psalm 100

All **Our God and Savior now draws near:**

O come let us worship.

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

The Lessons

All sit as able.

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader A reading from the book of Micah.
You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of
Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in
Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore
he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has
brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.
When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Second Canticle

A Song of Christ's Humility

**Though in the form of God,
Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him
and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Third Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

Third Canticle

The Song of Hannah

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.

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

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing as able.*

**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.

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

Officiant Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn at the Prayers

Hymnal 1982, #94

The Prayers of the People

Praying the Scriptures

Intercessor The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again, praying, "Stir up your strength, O Lord; **and come to help us.**"

Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ.
Silence

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People And come to help us.

Intercessor Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know the benefits of the reign of your Christ.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional-elect, the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan; Anne, our Canon Missioner; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant;

St. Paul's, Harsens Island – Rebecca, Priest-in-Charge

Trinity Church, Grand Ledge – Gail, Rector

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 Alicia, Joe, Natalie, Alex, Derek, Catherine, Rebecca, Matt, Dell, Joanna, Kurt, and Anne Marie. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Joy, Trish, Mark, Jim, Michelle, and Linda. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things. Look on your children with favor.

We pray for Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Fred, our mayor. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts.
May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed
instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the
light of your countenance and be their salvation.
We pray for those in the St. Andrew's circle of
prayer: Eileen, Ryan, Jim, Wahl & Rees Family,
Beth, Bob & Beth, Pauline, Torry, Tom & Family,
Sharon, Ann, Carley;
For those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Keith,
Mike, George, Barb, Jim, Barbaranne, Lori, Deliah,
Renee, Linda, Val, Lee, Leah, Ben & Shea;
For our family and friends in the armed forces and
who are first responders: Richard, Corey, Matt,
Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Eli
And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal
kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and
comfort those who mourn. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People **And come to help us.**

Celebrant 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.

The General Thanksgiving

All 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

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #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*

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