



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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

Prepare the Way

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

Canticle 16 – Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of

death, *and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

The Lessons

All sit as able.

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Reader A reading from the book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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

People Thanks be to God.

First Canticle

A Song of Christ's Goodness

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me,

Third Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

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 Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn at the Prayers

The Angel Gabriel

The Prayers of the People

Praying the Scriptures

Intercessor I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, “Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **come, great Redeemer, come.**”

Intercessor Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus 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. Andrew's, Gaylord – Pam, Priest-in-Charge
Grace Church, East Grand Rapids – Alan, Interim
Priest

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

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to
break into our world, to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow death, to guide us into
a way of peace.
We pray for Joe, our president; Gretchen our
govenor; Fred, our mayor. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People Come, great Redeemer, come.

Intercessor Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People Come, great Redeemer, come.

Intercessor Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness.

We pray for those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Michelle, Richard, Eileen, Ryan, Jim, Wahl & Rees Family, Beth, Bob & Beth, Pauline, Torry, Tom & Family, Sharon, Ann;

For those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Erika, Penney, Keith, Mike, George, Barb, Jim, Barbaranne, Lori, Deliah, Renee, Linda, Val, Lee, Leah;

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*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People Come, great Redeemer, come.

Intercessor Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People Come, great Redeemer, come.

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

Sleepers Wake

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*

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

1815 Hall St SE #200, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

(616) 319-2006 | www.edwm.org

The Rev. Canon Anne Hallmark

Canon Missioner for the Northern Region

ahallmark@edwm.org

Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

Member Churches:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

www.cmecovenant.org

The Rev. Radhajyoti

(Radha) Kaminski

Rector

rector.cmec@gmail.com

(352) 727-8927

Tara Lee

Covenant Administrator

Dawn Paulin

Treasurer

Leadership Council

Nancy Foster –

Facilitator, 2024

Mark Lauzon, 2024

Isabel Kempton, 2023

Jim Pals, 2023

Jim Hunt, 2022

Anne Stanton, 2022

**St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church**
323 S. State St.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
standrewsbr@gmail.com
(231) 598-9032

www.standrewsbr.com

The Rev. Robert Garrels
Director of Music
boogiebob40@hotmail.com

St. Andrew's Vestry
Coleen Dice, 2024
Betty Stolarek –
Junior Warden, 2024
Beth Hamelund, 2023
Chris Lisuzzo, 2023
Isabel Kempton –
Senior Warden, 2022
Dianne Lauzon, 2022

Bob Stanton, Treasurer
robstant@netonecom.net

**St. Mary's
Episcopal Church**
815 Lincoln St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
stmaryscadillac@gmail.com
(231) 775-9641

www.stmaryscadillac.org

St. Mary's Vestry
Ross Maxwell –
Senior Warden, 2024
Jim Williams –
Junior Warden, 2023
Linda Mochmar, 2023
Jim Hunt, 2022
Karen Peters, 2022

Dawn Paulin, Treasurer
stmarycadtreas@gmail.com

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

