



# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

## WELCOME

to St. Mary'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: RITE II

### THE WORD OF GOD

*All stand as able.*

#### Processional Hymn

*Once in Royal David's City, Hymnal 1982, #102*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

Leader When we are sad, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to see the hope of heaven making a place here on earth. We light the candle of hope because hope has come to us.

*Light the first candle.*

Leader When we worry because people are fighting or groups cannot cooperate with each other, 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.*

Leader 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, because joy has come to us.

*Light the third candle.*

Leader Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was also gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And Jesus shows us how to love each other. We light the candle of love, because love has come to us.

*Light the fourth candle.*

Leader On this long, dark night of the birth of Jesus, we have watched and waited for a sign of the joy to come. We have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love in anticipation of the birth of Jesus.

**All The good news is here. The child has come.  
A child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
We light the final candle because the light of the world has come to  
dwell among us. Behold, Christ is born.**

*Light the Christ candle.*

**The Gloria** *Said in unison.*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

*All sit as able.*

### First Reading

**Isaiah 62:6-12**

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

- 1 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; \*  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him \*  
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! \*  
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; \*  
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; \*  
he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \*  
and give thanks to his holy Name.

## Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Reader A reading from the book of Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Hymn

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*, Hymnal 1982, #94

## The Holy Gospel

*All stand as able.*

Luke 2:8-20

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and

Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant     The Gospel of the Lord  
People        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Homily**

**Mtr. Radha Kaminski**

**The Nicene Creed**

*All stand 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, “Glorious Lord,  
**grant us your peace.”**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil. 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, and 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*  
Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation. We pray for Joe, our president; Gretchen our govenor; Carla, our mayor. *Silence*  
Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. *Silence*



Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence. *Silence*

Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. We pray 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 those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, Jeffrey, Rodger & Judy, Elizabeth, Robert, Rob, Jessica, Krystal, Kevin, Kathy, Sharyn, Howie; 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*

Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. *Silence*

Glorious Lord,

**People Grant us your peace.**

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 against God and our neighbor.  
*Silence may be kept.*

**All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Offertory

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

### Offertory Hymn

*The First Noel, Hymnal 1982, #109*

*After all the gifts are brought to the altar, all say in unison:*

**All things come of thee, O Lord. And of thine own have we given thee.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

**Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367**

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 him thanks and praise.**

*The celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ, and in response all sing:*

### Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

**Pew Folder, p.87**

*The people stand or kneel as able while the celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine. Then says:*

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The celebrant concludes with a prayer for the coming of God's reign.*

*The people respond*    **AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer**                    *said in unison*

**BCP p. 364**

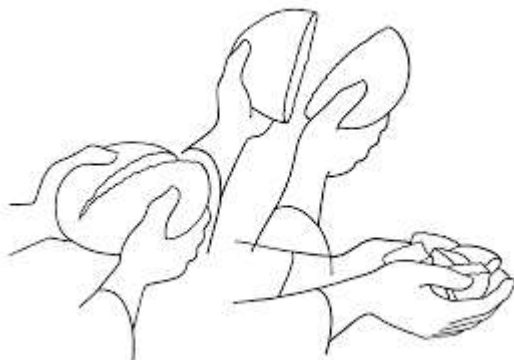
*It is our tradition to gather in a circle to say the Lord's Prayer. You are welcome to either stand and join hands, or remain seated and we will encircle you.*

Celebrant    And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
All            **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 says:*

Celebrant    Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People        **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**






## The Invitation




*The celebrant says the invitation.*

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion. There is no one who is too old or too young, no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the altar prepared by a loving God for all creation by the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.*

*Please come forward down the center aisle to in front of the altar to receive communion or a blessing. 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 Hymns

*O Come All Ye Faithful, Hymnal 1982, #83*  
*Love Came Down at Christmas, Hymnal 1982, #84*

## Prayer after Communion

*All stand or kneel as able.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All** **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Candle Lighting

*Silent Night, Hymnal 1982, #111*

*Lights are dimmed as the candle flame is passed from person to person.*

## The Blessing

*All stand as able.*

Celebrant May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

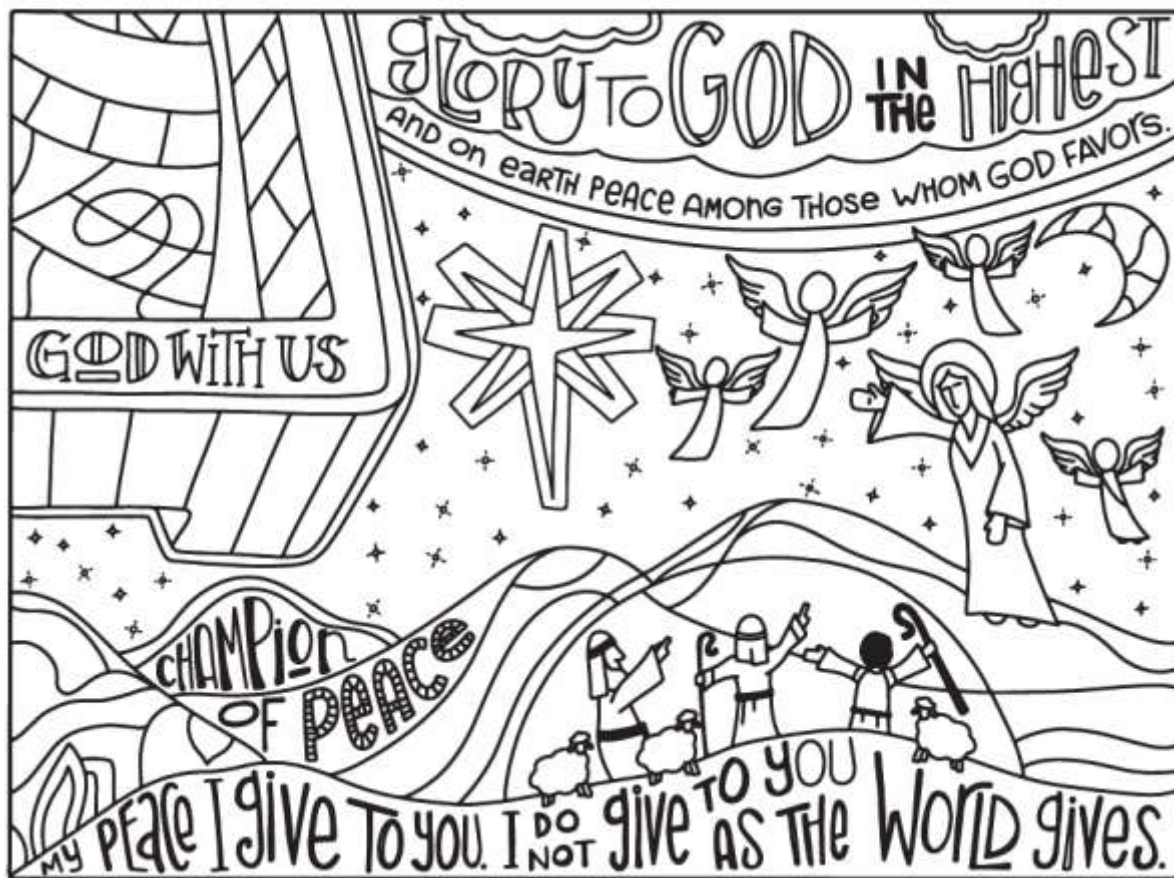
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen. Amen.



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