

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

## 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

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 the Advent Wreath

*Lighting the Way Advent Devotional*

*As the first candle is lit, all say*

All **A candle is a lovely thing to light for Him today.**

**A brave new candle straight and tall to make the darkness light.**

*As the second candle is lit, all say*

All **So fine was He, so tall and straight that all the world was lit,**

**A pathway widening out ahead, as he walked into it.**

*As the third candle is lit, all say*

All **Candles burning in the night, are symbols of the one**

**Who shed a glow of radiant light until His work was done.**

*As the fourth candle is lit, all say*

All **Four candles now are shining bright in loveliness and cheer,**

**To help us all remember that Christ's Birthday now is near.**

*As the white candle is lit, all say*

All **This white candle is for Jesus who was born on Christmas Day**

**To show God's love for all mankind and guide us in His way.**

**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 52:7-10**

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

## Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader        A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Hymn

**The Holy Gospel**

*All stand as able.*

**John 1:1-4**

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

**Nativity Pageant**                    *Any one of any age who wishes to participate is invited to come forward! Instructions will be given as we go!*



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

## *Hear Our Prayers*

Intercessor All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in this dawning. Trusting in His light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world saying, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

For the churches, which united they may be faithful in witness to your Son come among us. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. 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 Abraham, Laurie, Jonathan, Kathryn, Stephanie, Thon, Jess, Julianne, Matt, Cathy, Kris, Theresa, Janet. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Jennifer, Chris, Laura, Deb, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the leaders of nations, that they may turn from ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace. We pray for Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Carla, our mayor. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the poor of the earth, for victims of violence and tyranny, that their suffering be ended, and that they may come to know joy. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**



Intercessor For all families, that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this congregation, that we may be renewed by the light and grace of your incarnate word. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: J.P., Erin, Jimmy, Keith, Ken, Jerry & Karlene, Kelsay, Heather, Joey, Bruce; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Betty, Donna, Marty, Rachel, Gordon, Katsi, Kris, Bob, Bill, Janie, Bill, Scott & Laura, Harry & Melissa, Chris, Jerry, Helen & Raymond Jr., Raymond Sr., The Miller family, Angie, Dawn, Doug; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Wesley, Owen, Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those who have died, especially Kate, that their efforts continue to inspire our action and that they may rest in your care until that day when all shall rise again in your new Creation. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of the Lord, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

*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 D, BCP p. 372**

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 And offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All **We praise you, we bless you,  
We give thanks to you,  
And we pray to you, Lord our God.**

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

Celebrant Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All **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

### 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.**

## Recessional Hymn

### The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen. Amen.

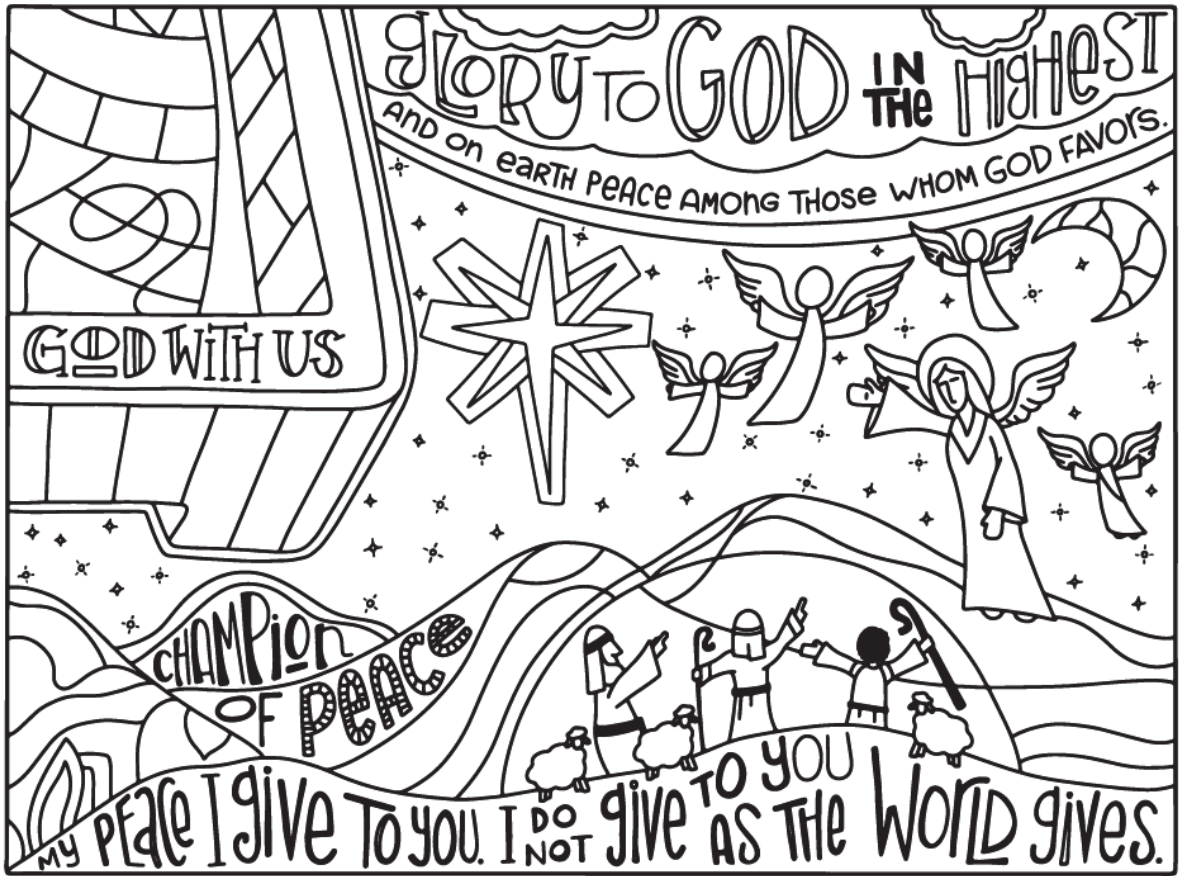
*The Altar flowers and poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and:*

*Thanksgiving for Emery & Violet - Pals Family*

*In memory of Jim, Mike, Howard, & Barb – Diane Wilson*

*In memory of Jona Seeley (Chopard) & Joyce Elaine Kelley – Jan & Geo*

*Glory of God – Peters Family*



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