



## The Third Sunday of Advent

### December 15, 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.

## HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

### THE WORD OF GOD

*All stand as able.*

#### Processional Hymn

*O come, O come Emmanuel, Hymnal, #56, v1-3*

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

#### The Gloria

*Hymnal, #S-277*

#### 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.**

Leader To accept the great gift of Christmas, your son Jesus;

People **Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader To listen quietly that we might hear the message of the angels,  
Peace on earth, Good will to men;

People **Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader That we might follow the example of the shepherds  
and seek the Christ Child, wherever he may be;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

Leader That we, like Christ, may grow in stature, wisdom and in your favor;

**People Prepare our hearts, O God**

### **The Collect of the Day**

**Bulletin Insert**

Celebrant God be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *The celebrant prays the collect of the day.*

### **The Lessons**

**Bulletin Insert**

#### **First Lesson**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

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

**People Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Psalm Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah, Isaiah 12:2-6**

#### **Second Lesson**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

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

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Hymn** *All stand as able.*

*Thy Word, St. Mary's Songbook, p.114*

### **The Holy Gospel**

**Luke 3:7-18**

*Before the Gospel:*

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

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

*After the Gospel:*

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

Hymn after the Gospel

*I Love you Lord, St. Mary's Songbook, p.52*

Homily

Mtr. Radha Kaminski

The Nicene Creed

*Said in unison, all standing 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Prayer

Intercessor Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God for the peace that passes understanding, and rejoice in the gift of Christ, saying, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

For peace in the church: May we intensify our efforts at peace-making with the separated churches, that peace may prevail over conflict, and that we may be reconciled into one family, exercising one baptism, one eucharist, and one common ministry in its many forms. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. St John's, Saginaw - Pam, Assistant Priest; St. James, Albion – Dick, Sr. Warden. 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, John, 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 peace in the world: May conflicts cease, may refugees and survivors find new homes and the spirit to begin again. May wounds be healed, losses grieved, and honorable deeds remembered. May grace abound in all lands and may the lion and the lamb lie content. *Silence*

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for those in positions of authority in our country and in the world, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Carla, our mayor. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this assembly. That the world might know us by our love. Help us with the grievances we harbor within our families and communities and among our co-workers and friends. Help us build trust and teach us forgiveness. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For peace where we live, work and play, and for peace within ourselves: may the noises in and around us diminish so that we can hear the quiet sounds of Creation. And grant us time and space to listen for you, our heart's true desire. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For all those who suffer, may we be messengers of hope, peace, and healing. Especially we pray for all those who have sought our prayers, for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: J.P., Jerry, Janet, Erin, Jimmy, Keith, Ken, Jerry & Karlene, Kelsay, Heather, Joey, Bruce; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Eileen, Brand Family, Betty, Donna, Marty, Rachel, Gordon, Katsi, Kris, Bob, Bill, Janie, Bill, Scott & Laura, Harry & Melissa, Chris, Jerry, Helen & Raymond Jr., Raymond Sr.; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Owen, Wesley, 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 are gone and beyond our reach, fill the empty spots in our hearts and souls with reassurance of your love for them and fill them also with the hope of our reuniting someday in your eternal kingdom. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

**People** Hear our prayer.

Celebrant O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of your peace and in the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God *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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 each other in the name of the Lord.*

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Offertory**      *The celebrant says the offertory sentence.*

**Offertory Hymn**      *Creator of the stars at night, Hymnal, #60*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer 2**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant      We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)**

**St. Mary's Songbook, p.88**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.



On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary and Andrew and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.  
**AMEN.**

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

*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.*

**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.*




**Celebrant** We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**People** We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.




**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 Hymn

*Earthen vessels, St. Mary's Songbook, p.25*

## Prayer after Communion

*All stand or kneel as able.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

### The Blessing

*All stand as able while the celebrant blesses the people.*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### The Recessional Hymn

*O come, O come Emmanuel, Hymnal, #56*

### 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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