



The Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 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.

HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as able.

Processional Hymn

Come thou long expected Jesus, Hymnal, #66

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 Trisagion

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Illustrated Ministry

Leader In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness 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 are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, 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. Today we light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

Light the third candle.

All: **Welcome, joy of Christ! Even in times of grief and sorrow, you never forsake us or leave us alone. Fill our hearts with joy today.**

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

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 126

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Hymnal #56 v5-6

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Before the Gospel:

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

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Hymnal #56 v7-8

Homily

Jess Hart

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

Praying the Scriptures

Intercessor Dear friends, hold fast to what is good. And let us praise our God, saying, “We rejoice in you, O Lord; **we exult in you.**”

We rejoice in you, O God: you have clothed your people with the garments of salvation; you have covered us with robes of righteousness. You have done great things for us. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant; Transfiguration, Indian River; St. Paul’s, Flint - Tom, Priest in Charge, Trinity Church, Grand Ledge – Gail, Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan – Corwin, Priest Associate. 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* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you are a lover of justice. My your kingdom come and your will be done on earth. Replace your children’s tears with laughter. *Silence* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you cause the seeds to grow and the earth to bring forth its shoots. May the fields and streams, mountains and oceans, glorify you. *Silence* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you are the repairer of cities. Build up ruined places, raise up whatever is devastated. Heal our city. *Silence*
We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

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* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: you speak good news to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captive, and those who mourn. May those who sow with tears, reap with songs of joy. We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Sharon & Family, 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; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, 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* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

Intercessor We rejoice in you, O God: through your Son, Jesus the Christ, you have made an everlasting covenant with us. Bless the dying and the dead forever. *Silence* We rejoice in you, O Lord;

People We exult in you.

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 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 HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory *The celebrant says the offertory sentence.*

Offertory Hymn

Every Valley, Pew Folder, p.26

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)

Pew Folder, p.87

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 Andrew & Mary 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

My God thy table now is spread, Hymnal, #321

Postcommunion Prayer

All stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever 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

On Jordan's bank, Hymnal, #76

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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