



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

**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: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

### THE WORD OF GOD

*All stand as able.*

**Processional Hymn**      *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord. Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**      *Come, O Come Emmanuel, v7-8*

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

**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.**

All    **“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord,  
“and bringing my reward with me, \*  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.  
“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \*  
the beginning and the end.”**  
**Blessed are those who do God’s commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life, \*  
and may enter the city through the gates.  
“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \*  
with this testimony for all the churches.  
“I am the root and the offspring of David, \*  
I am the bright morning star.”**  
**“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; \*  
“Come!” let each hearer reply!  
Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.**

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant    God be with you.  
**People       And also with you.**  
Celebrant    Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

*All sit as able.*

### First Reading

**Micah 5:2-5a**

Reader        A reading from the book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**People        Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

## Psalm 80:1-7

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be  
saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be  
saved.

## Second Reading

## Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as able.*

**Gospel Hymn**

**Pew Folder, pg. 107**

**The Holy Gospel**

**Luke 1:39-55**

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to



## 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,  
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 people kneel or stand as able.*

## The Prayers of the People

## *Praying the Scriptures*

Intercessor The Mighty One has done great things for us. And so we appeal to God once again, praying, "Stir up your strength, O Lord; **and come to help us.**"

Prepare in us a mansion for yourself, O Christ.

*Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People And come to help us.**

Intercessor Restore us, O God of hosts. May we know security. May we know peace. May we know the benefits of the reign of your 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. Paul's, Harsens Island – Rebecca, Priest-in-Charge

Trinity Church, Grand Ledge – Gail, Rector

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*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People** **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Show the strength of your arm, O God: lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things. Look on your children with favor.

We pray for Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Carla, our mayor. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People** **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People** **And come to help us.**

Intercessor Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation.

We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer:  
Keith, Mike, George, Barb, Jim, Barbaranne, Lori,  
Deliah, Renee, Linda, Val, Lee, Leah, Ben & Shea;

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

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*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People**

**And come to help us.**

Intercessor Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal  
kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and  
comfort those who mourn. *Silence*

Stir up your strength, O Lord;

**People**

**And come to help us.**

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 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 Christ be always with you.

**People** And also with you

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord; in this season we encourage a bow, wave or other appropriate gesture.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory**

*The celebrant says the offertory sentence.*

**Offertory Hymn**

**Hymnal 1982, #66**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*All stand as able.*

**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 say:

**All** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel as able.*

Celebrant    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 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.**

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.*

**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**

**Celebrant**     **The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

*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 down the center aisle to the front of the altar to receive communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, ask the priest for one when you come forward.*

**Communion Hymn**

**Hymnal 1982, #81**

**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.**

## **The Blessing**

*All stand as able.*

Celebrant     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 Celebration of Special Days and Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn**

**Hymnal 1982, #437**

## **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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