



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
read by one voice*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Stan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

All sit as able.

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Reader A reading from the book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Canticle 16 – Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, *and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. 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,
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.

Intercessor I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, "Fill the valleys, make low the hills; **come, great Redeemer, come.**"

Intercessor Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus 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. Andrew's, Gaylord – Pam, Priest-in-Charge Grace Church, East Grand Rapids – Alan, Interim Priest

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*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow death, to guide us into a way of peace.

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

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

People **Come, great Redeemer, come.**

Intercessor Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness.

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

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

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*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People Come, great Redeemer, come.

Intercessor Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation
through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in
the eternal life of Christ. *Silence*

Intercessor Fill the valleys, make low the hills;
People Come, great Redeemer, come.

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.

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.

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

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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