

**First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 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.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP, p. 355

Processional Hymn *All stand as able.*

Christians Awake, Hymnal, #106

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The celebrant prays the collect for purity.

The Gloria *Said in unison.*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

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

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: 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

Praying the Scriptures

Intercessor 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. We are witnesses, praying, " Shine forth in our lives, O Lord. **Hallelujah!**"

Abba, Father, you have received us as your children. Make our hearts shine ever brighter with the pure light of Christ, that all people might witness your all encompassing love. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Radha, our Rector; our

Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. Diocesan Councils of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan. 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, 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*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People **Hallelujah!**

Intercessor Almighty god, let all the nations witness your glory. Cause righteousness and praise to cover the earth. *Silence*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People **Hallelujah!**

Intercessor Great Lord, you are mighty in power: you graciously make the earth to burst forth with green plants; you provide food for flocks and herds; you give us the resources to thrive on this planet. May we be thankful in our hearts and generous in our lives. *Silence*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People **Hallelujah!**

Intercessor O God, it is you who establishes peace. Comfort your people with safety and security; assure us that it is not by our own strength, but by your goodness, that we can rest in quiet confidence. *Silence*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People **Hallelujah!**

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*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People Hallelujah!

Intercessor Loving God, you are the healer of the brokenhearted; it is you who binds up their wounds; you lift up the lowly. Clothe your children with the garments of health and salvation. We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: 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, Terri, Larry, Ron, Shelly; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, Jeffrey, 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*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People Hallelujah!

Intercessor O God, you sent your Son to redeem us from sin and death: draw us closer to your Son Jesus—into your heart, both now and in the life to come. *Silence*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

People Hallelujah!

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

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 Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The celebrant concludes with a prayer for the coming of God's reign.

The people respond **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Hymn

Prayer after Communion

All stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared this Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

The Blessing

All stand as able while the celebrant blesses the people.

Celebrant May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Hark, the herald angels sing, Hymnal, #87

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen. Amen.**



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