



The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 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.

MORNING PRAYER, ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

Prelude

Prepare Ye, Godspell

Opening Sentence

Officiant Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

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

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

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

Confession and Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All kneel as able. 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.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter *All stand as able.*

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People And your glory all the day long.

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen. Alleluia.**

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

All Our God and Savior now draws near:
O come let us worship.

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

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

The Lessons

All sit as able.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reader A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

People Thanks be to God.

First Canticle

A Song of Christ's Goodness

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Reader A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless

before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Second Canticle

A Song of Christ's Humility

**Though in the form of God,
Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him
and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, And every tongue
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Third Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these

things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Third Canticle

The Song of Hannah

**My heart exults in you, O God;
my triumph song is lifted in you.**

**My mouth derides my enemies,
for I rejoice in your salvation.**

**There is none holy like you,
nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.**

Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance;

Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.

The bows of the mighty are broken,

but the weak are clothed in strength.
Those once full now labor for bread,
those who hungered now are well fed.
The childless woman has borne sevenfold,
while the mother of many is forlorn.
God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up;
gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.
God raises the poor from the dust;
and lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with the rulers
and inherit a place of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are God's
on which the whole earth is founded.

Reflection *The reflection may be a time of silence, a homily,
or reading of a devotional text, story, or poem.*

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing as able.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel as able.

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People And listen to our prayer.

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages A

Officiant Help us, O God our Savior;

People Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

People Give to your people the blessing of peace.
 Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;
People And your wonders among all peoples.
 Officiant Do not let the oppressed
 be shamed and turned away;
People Never forget the lives of your poor.
 Officiant Continue your loving-kindness
 to those who know you;
People And your favor to those who are true of heart.
 Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People So shall we rejoice
 and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor My brothers and sisters, may God strengthen your hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, "O Come, o come, Emmanuel; **be our hope and our salvation.**"

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness.

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;

D.R.E.A.M. Partnership in the Dominican Republic
Grace Church, Traverse City – James, Rector
St. Barnabas, Portage – Mike, Priest-in-Charge

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 O Come, o come, Emmanuel;
People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

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

Intercessor O Come, o come, Emmanuel;
People Be our hope and our salvation.

Intercessor God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the
moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the
wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you.
Silence

Intercessor O Come, o come, Emmanuel;
People Be our hope and our salvation.

Intercessor God our hope, remember your compassion and
love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering,
the anxious and the grieving.

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;

And for our family and friends in the armed forces
and who are first responders: Richard, Corey,
Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Eli, Richard,
Tony

And for all those we name at this time.

Silence

Intercessor O Come, o come, Emmanuel;

People Be our hope and our salvation.

Intercessor God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortals with all your saints. *Silence*

Intercessor O Come, o come, Emmanuel;

People Be our hope and our salvation.

Officiant 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 General Thanksgiving

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all

our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant Let us bless the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen. Amen.

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21

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Junior Warden, 2024
Beth Hamelund, 2023
Chris Lisuzzo, 2023
Isabel Kempton –
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Isabel Kempton, 2023
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Jim Hunt, 2022
Anne Stanton, 2022

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