



# **Christmas Day**

## **December 25, 2022**

**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.

## ANTE - COMMUNION

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant 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 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**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

## The Lessons

### First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \* he has made the world so  
firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all  
that is in it; \* let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **Second Reading**

**Titus 2:11-14**

Reader A reading from the book of Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

Reader        A reading from the gospel according to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. " So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

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

**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!"**

Abb, 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-emcompassing love. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional; Anne, our Canon Missioner; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. The Diocesan Staff 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 Joe, Barrett, Alex, Matt, and Anne Marie. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Abraham, John, Stephanie, Thon, Jennifer, Justin, Jessica, Julianne, Beckett, Rachel, John, Linda, Cathy, Dell, Theresa. 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 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 Great Lord, you are mighty in power: you graciously make the earth to burst forth with green plants; you provide food for flocks of 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 in 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 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: Heather & Lonnie & Family, Jamie, Dahlia, Lynda, Kyle, Sherry, Lorie, Reggie, Linda, Anne & Steve, Cindy, Larry, Lisa, Lorie, Deliala, Norm, Jerry; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Karen, Sally, Jeanne, Nan, Ollie, Sharyn, Susie, Marty, Rachel, & Doug, Bob, Jill, Shelley, Raymond & Carolyn, Carloson Family; 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. We pray for all those who have died, especially Barb Thorpe.

*Silence*

Shine forth in our lives, O Lord.

**People Hallelujah!**

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 Offertory** *A stationary offertory is available at the back of the sanctuary.*

Officiant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

**The Lord's Prayer** *Said in unison*

**BCP p. 364**

*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.*

**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 Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

For a Birthday

Pew Card

For an Anniversary

BCP 431, first prayer

Travelers

BCP 831, #53

## The Peace

*All stand as able.*

Celebrant    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People        And also with you**

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Officiant    Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Officiant    Let us bless the Lord

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



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