

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

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

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

Lighting the Way Advent Devotional

As the first candle is lit, all say

**All A candle is a lovely thing to light for Him today.
A brave new candle straight and tall to make the darkness light.**

As the second candle is lit, all say

**All So fine was He, so tall and straight that all the world was lit,
A pathway widening out ahead, as he walked into it.**

Leader To accept the great gift of Christmas, your son Jesus;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader To listen quietly that we might hear the message of the angels,
Peace on earth, Good will to men;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader That we might follow the example of the shepherds
and seek the Christ Child, wherever he may be;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

Leader That we, like Christ, may grow in stature, wisdom and in your favor;

People Prepare our hearts, O God

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.

Invitatory Psalm: Psalm 67:1-5

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

O God, be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The Psalm: Canticle 4 or 16: The Song of Zechariah

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After the Psalm:

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.

The Lessons

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First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Said in unison

**All My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior,
 for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
 and holy is your name.
 You have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.
 You have shown strength with your arm
 and scattered the proud in their conceit,
 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
 You have filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
 You have come to the help of your servant Israel,
 for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
 The promise made to our forebears,
 to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle R: A Song of God's Love, 1 John 4:7-11

Said in unison

All Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

Third Reading

Luke 3:1-6

After the reading: Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

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

The Apostles' Creed

Said by all, standing as able.

All 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Said in unison

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 Peace

All stand as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

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

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The Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayer

Intercessor Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Here these prayers we offer as we say, "Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop;

Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant. St. Francis, Grayling - DeAnne, Sr. Warden 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 Abraham, John, Laurie, Jonathan, Kathryn, Stephanie, Thon, Jess, Julianne, Matt, Cathy, Kris, Theresa, Janet. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Jennifer, Chris, Laura, Deb, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For those in civil authority: That they be guided by hope and not fear. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We pray for those in positions of authority in our country and in the world, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Fred, our mayor. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For this faith community; amid joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture the creation and ever proclaim its wonders. *Silence* Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those at greatest risk among us: let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: J.P., Jerry, Janet, Erin, Jimmy, Keith, Ken, Jerry & Karlene, Kelsay, Heather, Joey, Bruce; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Eileen, Brand Family, Betty, Donna, Marty, Rachel, Gordon, Katsi, Kris, Bob, Bill, Janie, Bill, Scott & Laura, Harry & Melissa, Chris, Jerry, Helen & Raymond Jr., Raymond Sr.; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Wesley, Owen, Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*

Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life. *Silence*
Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guide us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

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

For a Birthday

Pew Card

For an Anniversary

BCP 431, first prayer

Travelers

BCP 831, #53

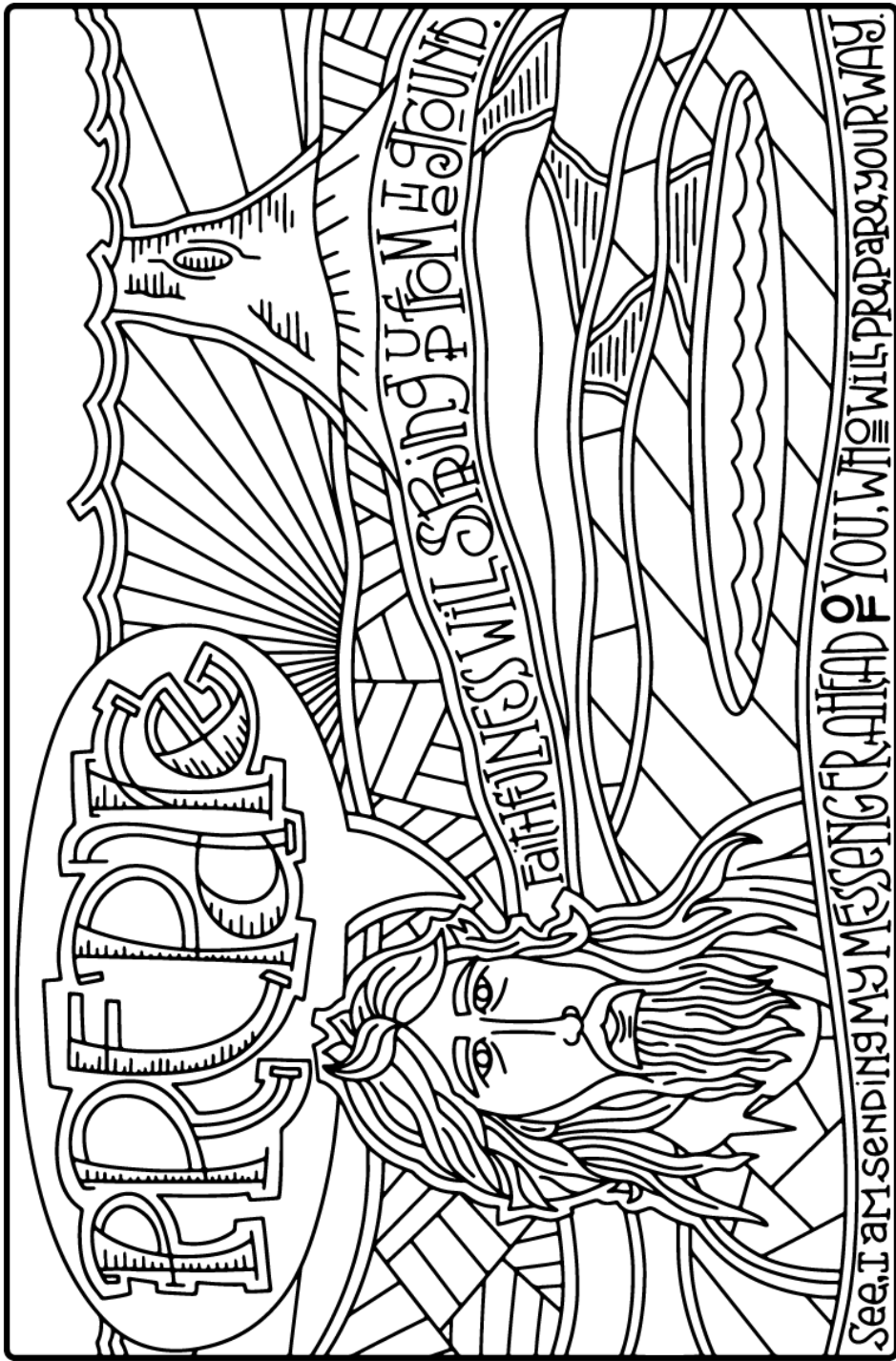
The Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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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