



December 22, 2024 • 10 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Michael's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Welcome to St. Michael's Episcopal Church!

We are an open, affirming and inclusive parish, worshipping in the Episcopal tradition. No matter where you're from, or what you believe, you are welcome to gather with us, sing with us, pray with us, learn with us, and receive communion with us. We do our best to make our customs accessible to all people, but if anything seems confusing to you, feel free to ask someone for help, or simply sit and observe.

Welcome, Visitors! Tell us about yourself.

If you are visiting today, we invite you to sign the Guest Book. We would love to get to know each other! And if you're seeking baptism, confirmation, or simply a community of healing and hope to belong to, we would be delighted to join you on your journey.

Online Giving

If you wish make a one-time or recurring donation to St. Michael's, scan the QR code, or visit stmichaelschurch.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!



Service Notes

An asterisk (*) Denotes moments when the congregation is invited to stand (as able)

"Hymnal" refers to the blue Hymnal 1982 located throughout the Nave.

Scriptures are quoted from the NRSV Bible, unless otherwise indicated.

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"Soon and Very Soon". Words & Music: Andrae Crouch; ©1976 by Bud John Songs, Inc/Crouch Music

The Word of God

Prelude & Lighting of the Advent Candle

* Processional Song

“Emmanuel”

McGee

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is called
Em - man - u - el; _____ God with us, re - vealed in us;
His name is called Em - man - u - el. _____

* A Penitential Order for Advent

Book of Common Prayer p. 351

Celebrant Bless the LORD who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is the only LORD. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

*** Song of Praise**

"Holy God"

David Hurd

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

* Collect of the Day

Advent 4

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary (Magnificat)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
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 Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Sequence**

“Tell Out, My Soul”

Hymnal # 438

* **Holy Gospel**

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, LORD Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell

* **The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

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.

* **Prayers of the People**

Form V, BCP p. 389

Intercessor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Diane our Bishop Provisional, for Amy our Bishop-Elect, for Ryan our Priest, for Larry our Deacon Emeritus, for all ministers, and for all the people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, especially Aaron, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who live and work in the city of Independence, and in greater Kansas City, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the congregation of St. Michael's, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For any who may oppose us or wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Nathaniel and Elsa, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the archangel Saint Michael and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

* **The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

- “Greening the Church” after Service (followed by Chiefs game)
- Tue, Dec 24, 6 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Thu, Jan 2, 10 am - 2 pm – Necessity Pantry (moved from Jan 1)
- Sat, Jan 4, 12 pm – Memorial Service for Nathaniel Jacobs

The Holy Communion

Offertory

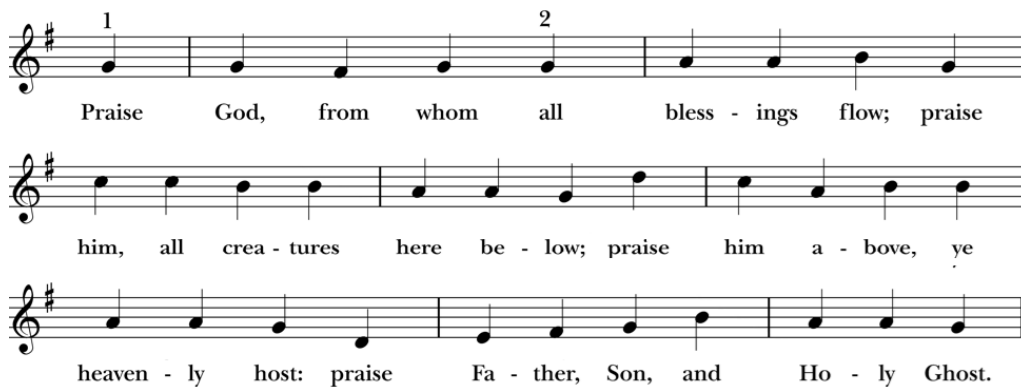
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Hymnal # 82

* **The Presentation**

“Doxology”

Hymnal # 43 v.4



1 2

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

“Sursum Corda” Hymnal # S-120

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 *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant *People*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [Preface for Advent] Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

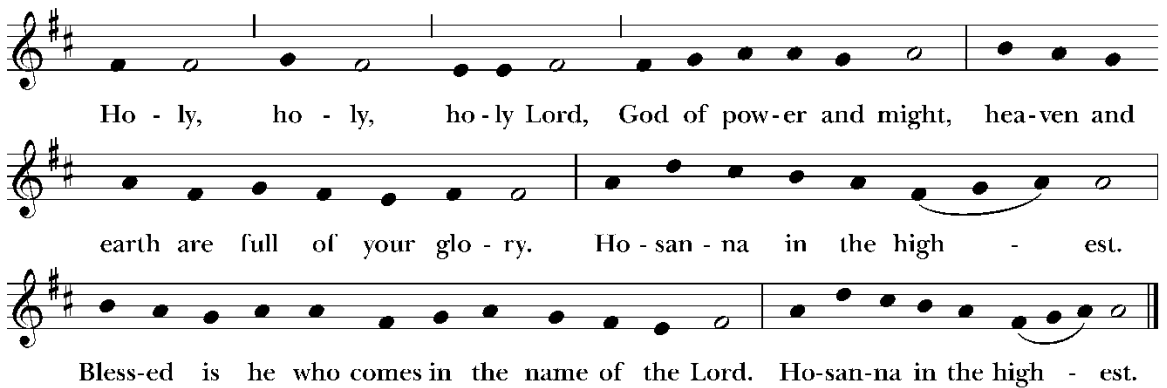
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

* **Sanctus**

“Holy Holy Holy Lord”

Hymnal # S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, and Jacob, Rachel & Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this

Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN!*



The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

BCP p. 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



Communion Notes: Communion is offered in two kinds: bread and wine. One may receive the bread alone, dip it into the wine, or drink from the chalice after consuming the bread. Sealed, pre-packaged containers of bread and wine are available. Gluten-free bread may be requested by crossing one's hands palms-down. All manners of reception are valid, and all are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing.

* **Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing**

BCP p. 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



* **Closing Song**

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrae Crouch



1 & 4. Soon and ver - y soon, ___ we are going to see the King! ___
2. No more cry - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___
3. No more dy - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___



Soon and ver - y soon, ___ we are going to see the King! ___
No more cry - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___
No more dy - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___



Soon and ver - y soon, ___ we are going to see the King! ___
No more cry - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___
No more dy - ing there ___ we are going to see the King! ___

Refrain



Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King! _

* **Dismissal**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!