December 24, 2024 · 6 pm
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Christmas Eve
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.

The Word of God

*** Carols** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Hymnal # 87
It Came upon a Midnight Clear Hymnal # 89
Cradle Song Hymnal # 101

*** Processional** *O Come All Ye Faithful* Hymnal # 83

* Opening Acclamation and Prayer

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.***

*** Song of Praise** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Hymnal # 96

*** Collect of the Day** Christmas I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

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

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
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.
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.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Lesson **Titus 2:11-14**

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.

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

* Nativity Procession *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* Hymnal # 79

The Nativity Adapted from Luke 2:1-20

Cast: *Emperor, Joseph, Mary, Angel, Heavenly Host, Shepherds*

Gospeller: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Emperor: I hereby decree that all the world should be registered!

Gospeller: This was the first registration, and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph: Let us go from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because I am descended from the house and family of David.

Gospeller: 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.

Mary: The time has come for me to deliver my child!

Gospeller: 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.

Angel: 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.

Heavenly Host: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

Shepherds: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us.

Gospeller: 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.

Mary: I will treasure all these words and ponder them in my heart.

Gospeller: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

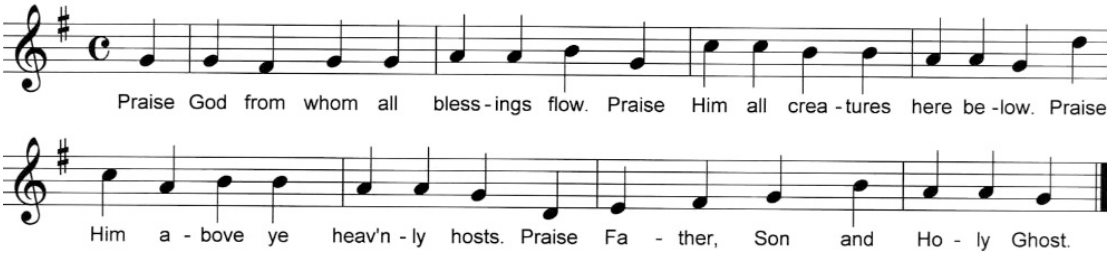
Welcome & Announcements

- 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 *"The Snow Lay on the Ground"* Hymnal # 110

*** The Presentation** *"Doxology"* Hymnal #43 v.4



*** The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant The Lord be with you. 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: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"* Hymnal # S-130

* Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Celebrant: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

* The Intercessions

Form VI, BCP p. 392

Intercessor: In peace we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;
People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For the city of Independence and Greater Kansas City, for the state of Missouri, for the United States and for the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Diane our Bishop Provisional, for Amy our Bishop-Elect, for Ryan our Priest, for Larry our Deacon Emeritus, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God and the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Nathaniel and Elsa, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, St. Michael the Archangel, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. ***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: All are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing. 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. A blessing may be requested by crossing one's hands over the chest.

Anointing for Healing: After communion is received, those in need of prayer for healing of body, mind or spirit, may join the priest at the kneeler along the wall. Feel free to kneel, or stand, to receive an anointing of oil. Prayer requests may be spoken or unspoken.

Communion Hymn *"What Child is This"* Hymnal # 115

*** Post-Communion Hymn** *"Silent Night"* Hymnal #111

Silent night, holy night / All is calm, all is bright
Round yon' virgin, mother and child / Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night / Shepherd's quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar / Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night / Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from they holy face / With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth

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.

*** Blessing +**

*** Closing Hymn** *"Joy to the World"* Hymnal # 100

*** Dismissal**

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

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS !