

December 29, 2024 · 10 am  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
First Sunday of Christmas



**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](http://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.

Cover art "Celestial Candle" from [www.flux-image.com](http://www.flux-image.com)



## First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

## Psalm 147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.  
He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## Second Lesson

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son

into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

\* **Sequence**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Hymnal # 81

\* **Holy Gospel**

John 1:1-18

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

**People      Glory to you, LORD Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed

was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

## The Peace

**Celebrant**      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**          And also with you.

## Welcome & Announcements

- End-of-Year Giving
- Thu, Jan 2, 10 am - 2 pm – Necessity Pantry (moved from Jan 1)
- Sat, Jan 4, 12 pm – Memorial Service for Nathaniel Jacobs
- Sun, Jan 26, 11:30 am – Annual Meeting & Potluck





# The Holy Communion

Offertory

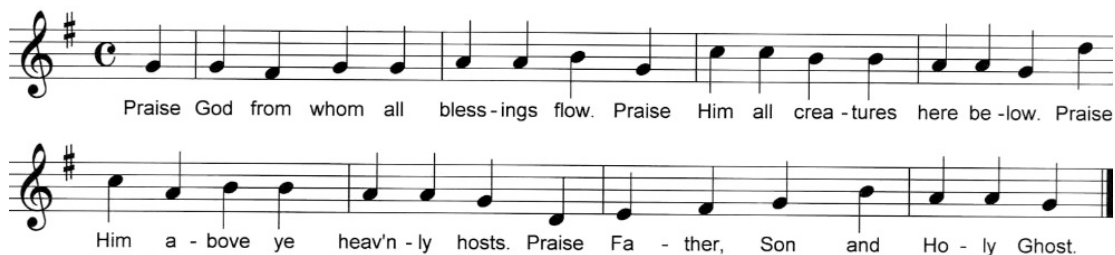
*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Hymnal # 107

\* **The Presentation**

*“Doxology”*

Hymnal #43 v.4



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise Him all crea-tures here be-low. Praise Him a-bove ye heav'n-ly hosts. Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost.

\* **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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full,  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \* 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.

**\* Post-Communion Prayer & Blessing**

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 Hymn**

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Hymnal # 99

**\* Dismissal**

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

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



# CHRISTMASTIME