



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec 21, 2025

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

stmichaelschurch.org

*"My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the
presence of all peoples, a light for
revelation to the Gentiles and for glory
to your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32)*



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, feel free 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 to 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 Hymnal 1982 located throughout the Nave.

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"Trisagion and Sanctus" Setting: from New Plainsong; David Hurd; ©1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

"Seek Ye First". Words & Music: Karen Lafferty; ©Copyright 1972 Maranatha! Music

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

The Word of God

* Lighting the Advent Wreath

As we light all four candles of the Advent Wreath, we give thanks for your great love in Jesus, your Son. Help us to make room in our hearts for your love and let your love live in our bodies, minds, and spirits. **Amen.**

* Processional Song

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymnal # 66

* Opening Sentence

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

* Trisagion

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 God 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

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

* Sequence

"Seek Ye First"

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words connected by horizontal lines to indicate a continuous melody. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Seek ye first the king - dom of God.' The second staff contains 'And His righ - teous - ness.' The third staff contains 'And all these things shall be giv - en un - to you.' The fourth staff contains 'Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Seek ye first the king - dom of God.

And His righ - teous - ness.

And all these things shall be giv - en un - to you.

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia.

* Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Why a Virgin Birth?

The Rev Ryan Wiksell



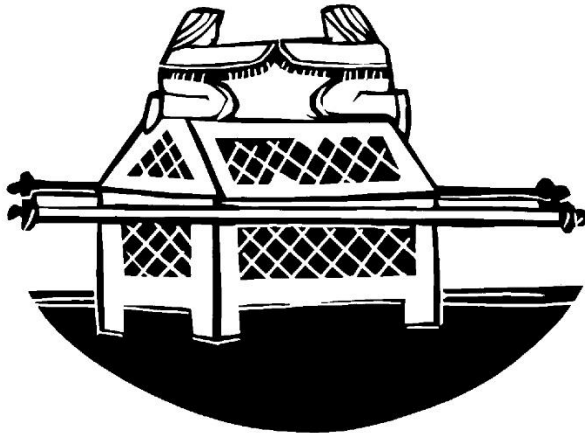
* Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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

R&R 33

Intercessor In peace, we pray to you, Holy One, saying, “Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.” God of hope, in this season of Advent, help us to live in harmony with one another, working for justice, freedom and peace.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of the universal Church, we pray to you for all the people of God, and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Amy, our Bishop and for our parish lay and clergy leaders.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of creation and growth, let us be the fruit of your word for our world and good stewards of your world.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of compassion, let us be the voices crying out in the wilderness wherever we see oppression or pain, the voices for those who have no voice.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of healing and hope, we pray for those needing ongoing care and for those waiting upon your mercy.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of God of abundance, we offer thanks for all of the blessings of this life.

People Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Intercessor God of time, grant rest eternal for those who have died and grant us a place in your eternal kingdom.

People **Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding**

Intercessor God of loving-kindness, hear the prayers of your people, offered here,
spoken or silent.

Celebrant O Holy One, who promises justice and forgiveness, draw us ever closer to
you as we seek to make a pathway in this world for the coming of your
love and mercy. *Amen.*

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

**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.**

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.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome & Announcements

- Christmas Schedule
- Year-End Giving
- Annual Meeting

The Holy Communion

Offertory

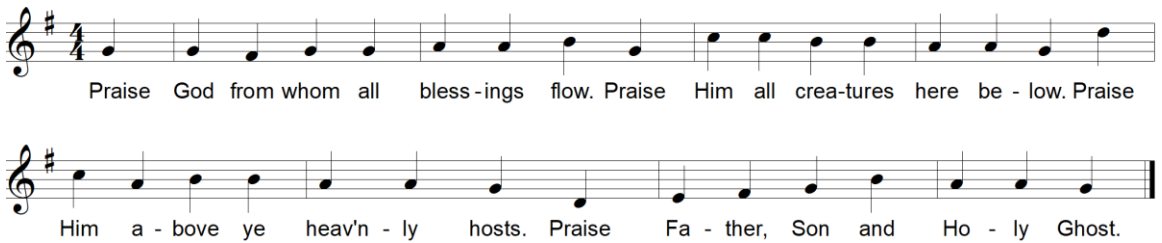
"Tell Out, my Soul!"

Hymnal # 438

* **The Presentation**

"Doxology"

Hymnal # 43 v4



* **The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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: All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

* **Sanctus**

“Holy Holy Holy Lord”

Hurd

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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intended for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant, in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All: Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning you're your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with St. Michael, the Archangel, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All: Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen

*** The Lord's Prayer**

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

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.

*** Fraction**

Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.



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.

Communion Music

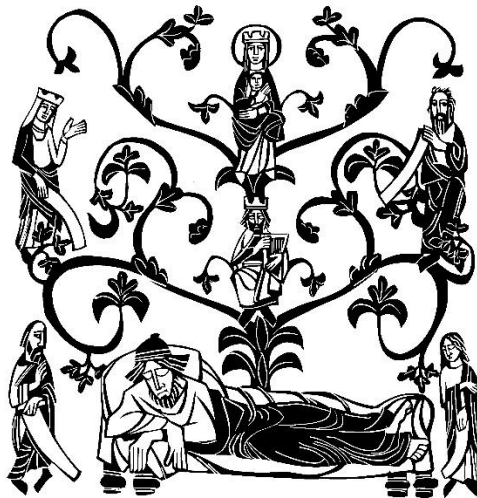
"Redeemer of the Nations Come"

Hymnal # 55

* Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.



* Closing Hymn

"Soon and Very Soon"



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!

