



Third Sunday of Advent

Dec 14, 2025, 10 am
Holy Eucharist

St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

stmichaelschurch.org

**ADVENT
LESSONS
& CAROLS**

*"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never
walk in darkness but will have
the light of life." (John 8:12)*



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.

Advent Lessons and Carols

This special service features The Great O Antiphons from the eighth century, which were originally used before and after singing the Magnificat. Each antiphon invokes the Messiah under a different Old Testament title. The antiphons amplify each of these titles for the Messiah and then appeal that he "come" and save us in a particular way. We hope you enjoy this very special music, and the efforts of those who have worked hard to present it to us today.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Prelude & Introduction


Candle-Lighting

As we light the first three candles of the Advent Wreath we give thanks for your great love in Jesus, your Son. Open our hearts to receive your love and show us the way to give that love to others. *Amen*

* Processional


"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"

C F C F G




1. As the dark a - waits the dawn, so we a - wait your
2. As the blue ex - pec - tant hour be - fore the sil - v'ring
3. As the moon re - flects the sun un - til the night's de -
4. Shine your fu - ture on this place, en - light - en ev - 'ry

C A_m F G



light. O Star of prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing
skies, we long to see your day a - rise, whole and
crease, may we your heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing
guest, that through us stream your ho - li - ness, bright and

E_m F C G F C



bright, lov - ing bright, till shades of fear are gone.
wise, whole and wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
peace, liv - ing peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
blest, bright and blest, come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the Name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.

Celebrant The Lord speaks the word of peace,

People Peace for all faithful people,

Celebrant And those who turn to God in their hearts

People Shall see God's glory dwell in our world.

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

* **Collect of the Day**

Advent 3

Celebrant: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**All Be our King of peace,
be our new Light in your new day,
be our Key of David, be our Root of Jesse,
be our Mighty Lord and Provider,
be our Wisdom, and be our Emmanuel. Come.
O King of peace, desire of nations, come save us, whom you formed out of
the clay, and unite us as your people.**

7

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (verse 7 & refrain)

Hymnal # 56 v.7

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind / in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, / and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

A Reading

Psalm 10:1, 12, 14-15, 18-19

Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, and hide yourself in time of trouble?

Rise up, O Lord; lift up your hand, O God; do not forget the afflicted. Surely, you behold trouble and misery; you see it and take it into your own hand. The helpless commit themselves to you, for you are the helper of orphans.

The Lord will hear the desire of the humble; you will strengthen their heart and your ears shall hear; To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, so that mortals may strike terror no more.

* **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

Hymnal # 76 v1&2



Celebrant O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting,

**All Come down on all who sit in darkness or who sit in the shadow
 of death.**

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 6 & refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.6

*O come thou Dayspring from on high, / and cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, / and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

A Reading

Psalm 16:7-11

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

* **Abide with Me**

Hymnal # 662 v 1&2

Celebrant O Key of David, what you open no one can close,

**All and what you close, no one can open. Come rescue those whom
 this world has imprisoned and close forever the way of misery.**

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 5 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.5

*O come, thou Key of David, come, / and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, / and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

A Reading

Psalm 5:1-5, 7-8

Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. Hearken to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I make my prayer to you. In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; early in the morning I make my appeal and watch for you. For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, and evil cannot dwell with you. Braggarts cannot stand in your sight; you hate all those who work wickedness. But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy I will go into your house; I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness, because of those who lie in wait for me; make your way straight before me.

* Blessed Be the God of Israel

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to__ set us
2. With prom-ised mer-cy will God still the cov - e - nant re -

free and rais - es up new hope__ for__ us; a
call, the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from

Branch from__ Da - vid's tree. So__ have the proph - ets__
foes to__ save us all; that__ we might wor - ship__

long__ de - clared that with a might-y arm God would turn back our
with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and

en - e - mies and all serve who__ wish us harm.
righ - teous - ness to serve God__ all our days.

Celebrant O Root of Jesse, on whom the Spirit of the Lord shall rest,

**All Come be our defender as well as our judge, and bring to this
world your new order.**

*** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 4 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.4

*O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, / free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, / and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!

A Reading

Isaiah 11:1-6

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the
spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or
decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide
with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his
loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf
and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

*** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

Hymnal # 68

Celebrant O Mighty Lord and Provider, who satisfied Israel's needs,
 All **Come lead us, feed us and write your law on our hearts.**

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 3 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.3

*O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, / who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times didst give the law, / in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

A Reading

Nehemiah 9:11-15

And you divided the sea before them, so that they passed through the sea on dry land, but you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. Moreover, you led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way in which they should go. You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments, and you made known your holy Sabbath to them and gave them commandments and statutes and a law through your servant Moses. For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you swore to give them.



*Many Gifts, One Spirit



1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3. Freshness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,



1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3. Freshness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,



In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.



Man-y gifts, one Spir-it, one love known in man-y ways. In our dif-fer -



ence is bless-ing, from di-ver-si - ty we praise one Giv-er, one Lord,



one Spir-it, one Word known in man - y ways, hal-low-ing our



days. For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Celebrant O Holy Wisdom, continuing to form and nurture your creation,
 All **Come heal our blindness and teach us your compassion.**

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 2 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.2

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, / who orderest all things mightily,
 to us the path of knowledge show, / and teach us in her ways to go.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

A Reading

Isaiah 40:10-15

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.



* Lead Us from Death to Life



Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

spair to___ hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

love, from war to___ peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

1. Still all the an - gry cries, still all the an - gry guns,
2. So man - y lone - ly hearts, so man - y bro - ken lives,

still now your peo - ple die, earth's sons and daugh - ters.___
long - ing for love to break in - to their an - guish.___

Let jus - tice roll, let mer - cy pour down,___ come and
Come, teach us love,___ come teach us peace,___ come and

teach us___ your way of com - pas - sion.
teach us___ your way of com - pas - sion.

* Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, LORD Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell

Celebrant O Emmanuel, our Lord and Savior,

**All Come ransom us, come rescue us and come redeem us, as only
 you can, for we have exiled ourselves from you.**

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 1 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel / and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here / until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

* **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Hymnal # 66 v1&2

Celebrant Divided as we are in this world, we pray

People Come be our King of peace.

Celebrant Despairing of the darkness that surrounds us, we pray

People Come be our new Light in your new day.

Celebrant Imprisoned in prisons we have built and maintained, we pray

People Come be our Key of David.

Celebrant Having resisted rules that might restrict our self-gratification, we pray

People Come be our Root of Jesse.

Celebrant Having mistaken our weakness for strength, we pray

People Come be our Mighty Lord and Provider.

Celebrant Having blindly and heartlessly embraced foolishness, we pray

People Come be our Wisdom.

Celebrant And because we need to see and to know that God is with us, we pray

People Come be our Emmanuel, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.

* The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

- Vestry Openings
- Stewardship Campaign
- Tue, Dec 24, 6 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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Blessed Be the God of Israel

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As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: *Lucient*, Carl F. Schalk

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Augsburg Fortress

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Sanctus

Setting: from New Plainsong; David Hurd;

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Lead Us from Death to Life

Stanza Text: Marty Haugen; Refrain Text:

Sattish Kumar

Music: *World Peace Prayer*, Marty Haugen

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Publications, Inc.

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Text and Music: Al Carmines

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin; tr. Hymnal 1940, © The Church

Pension Fund

Music: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, Plainsong Mode 1,

15th cent

The Holy Communion

Offertory

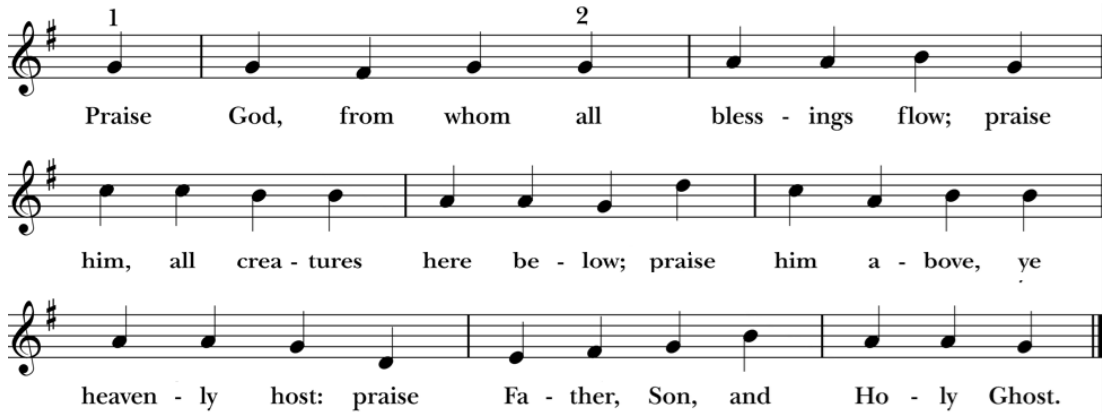
“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Hymnal # 65

* **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 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”

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.

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 you have 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 with 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 (Contemporary)**

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

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are your, now and for 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 *"Thy Kingdom Come! On Bended Knee"* Hymnal # 615

*** 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** *"Hark! The Glad Sound!"* Hymnal # 72

*** Dismissal**

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hymnal # 56

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high,
 3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
 4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree,
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come,
 6. O come, thou Day - spring from on high,
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
 who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height
 free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny
 and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
 and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
 in one the hearts of all man - kind;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 to us the path of of know - ledge show,
 in an - cient times didst give the law,
 that trust thy might - y that power to save,
 make safe the way that y that leads on high,
 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in her ways to go.
 in cloud, and them ma - jes - ty, Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and give them vic - tory and awe.
 and close the path to o'er grave.
 and death's dark shad - ow mis - er - y.
 and be thy self our King put to flight.
 Peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!