

— ST. MICHAEL'S — EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 22, 2024

WEEK OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE MUSIC & WELCOME

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Reader **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
 Amen.**

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Reader **Gracious God,
 we praise you for accepting us as your children
 and making us heirs of eternal life.
 In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
 and made us clean in your sight.**

**Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.**

**Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
who is our savior and redeemer. Amen.**

Officiant 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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Reader **And also with you.**

Officiant Together, 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.**

PRAYER FOR RECTOR SEARCH

O shepherding God, guide the hearts and minds of our Search Committee as we seek to discern the role of Rector for St. Michael's Church. By your light, draw to us those with vision and passion for St. Michael's future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor, a dynamic preacher of your Gospel, to shepherd us as your flock, strengthen our ministries, and work with us in building up your kingdom. **Amen.**

THE LESSON & PSALM

A reading from 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.

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

Reader **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Canticle 15 *The Song of Mary* responsively by half verse.

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.

Officiant A reading from the Gospel of **Luke (1:39-55)**

Reader **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."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

Reader **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

CANDLE LIGHTING AND SILENT PRAYER

You are invited to light a candle and observe a period of silent personal prayer time.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Officiant May our hearts leap for joy as we again assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming. With Mary, may our souls proclaim God's greatness as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader Let us pray for the church: As the celebration of your incarnation draws near, we remember the many ways your revelation is lifted up in the world and we pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Megan our Bishop, Andy, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse our clergy, and especially for those whose very faith endangers their lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: As you lead us, Lord, from darkness to light, may we be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, rooting out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your arm. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For your own spirits: May our hearts be magnified and made much bigger than we think possible. May this season of Advent stir in us such faith that we exert ourselves to be your light in a darkened world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community: May we be enriched by welcoming the stranger and be drawn to a bright future in service to you, while also remembering and honoring those in the past who guided

us into faith. We especially pray for Mary, our head of school, for all the staff, teachers and students at St. Michael's Day School and Starr King TK-8. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and suffering. May they find healing and peace. Especially we pray for **Kate, Holly, Jane, Frances, Aleta, Lennie, David, Cynthia, Liz, Barbara, Bobbi, Mike, Sandy, Robert, Sherry, Michael, Sarah, Tina, Jennifer, Mark, Mary, Kay, Hunter, and Billie.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the dead and those on the threshold of death. May they and we be welcomed into the place of glory our Lord has prepared for us, we pray especially for the repose of the soul of Jay Glad. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else and whom else shall we pray? **(A time of silence is kept.) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Officiant Lord, we gather up the prayers of this household, confident in your promise to be with us always. Guide us in wisdom and faith; that we might live into the life created for us, trusting in your will. All this we ask through your Son, our redeemer, Jesus, who is your Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant For those who cannot be here physically to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ let us invite the Lord Jesus through this prayer for spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Julian of Norwich liturgy

Officiant Together, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

May God's blessing be with you in the darkness and in the light, while you are awake and while you are sleeping, in your joys and in your sorrows—In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go into the world to love and serve Christ.

Reader **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DISCUSSION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CHECK IN.