

— ST. MICHAEL'S — EPISCOPAL CHURCH



December 7th, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE MUSIC & WELCOME

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

People **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.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Together, let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13)

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a

servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 responsively by half-verse.

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *

and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *

who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *

and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL MATTHEW (3:1-12).

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then

the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **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 Holy God, yours is the voice that calls from the places we least expect, inviting us into ever deeper relationship with you

that we might live surrounded by your love. Hear now our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader We pray for Christ's church, that we may never become settled in comfort but that we might always be on pilgrimage serving those we encounter. We especially pray for Archbishop of Canterbury elect Sarah Mullally, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Megan our Bishop, Megan, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse, our clergy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who hold authority over us, that they might escape from their fears and hatreds and govern in the glory of your mercy and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each other in this parish community, that we might discern our own calls to be Christ in all the places our day-to-day lives take us. We pray especially for Christine, 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.**

We pray for the natural world and for our own stewardship of creation, that we might be advocates for actions needed to leave an abundant creation to future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of healing and relief from their burdens, worries and fears, in body, mind, or spirit. Especially we lift up **Kathy, Dawn, Jane, Marilu, Jennine, Averey, Lynn, Debbie, Dan, Marguerite, Jon, Sarah, Jennifer, Michael, Andrea, Chris, Kate, Liz, Mike, Tina, Mary, Kay, Hunter, and Billie.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Surround all those who have been killed or injured by gun violence, and comfort their families and communities who are left grieving and traumatized. We especially pray for those grieving in Stockton. Merciful God, bind up their wounds and bless them with your loving presence. Empower us to be agents of peace and healing in our world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, hasten the day of Christ's return that we might be reunited with all whom we have loved but see no more. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Officiant Almighty God, you entered into our world and blessed our lives through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, your son and our Lord. Bless us still as we strive to become the people we were meant to be. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *

Officiant In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you, and, since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we

beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, 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

Officiant 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 Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DISCUSSION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CHECK IN.