



St. Michael's
Episcopal Church
COLORADO SPRINGS

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist II

We are glad you have chosen to join us today as we worship God together. Thank you for silencing your cell phone and wearing a name tag. Single use name tags are available on the welcome table in the Gathering Space, along with name tag request forms. If this is your first time visiting, you have a prayer request, or you would like to get more connected, please fill out a pew card and place it in the offertory plate or the black box on the welcome table in the Gathering Space. Our Nursery, located on the lower level, is open today from 7:45 AM - 12:00 PM for children 5 and under. *The Bible we are using to proclaim the Gospel is The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition, and you can learn more about the Bible at stmikeschurch.com/bible.* We hope you have a blessed day and week ahead.

Prelude (*Handbells*)

“Largo” from *Winter*

by Antonio Vivaldi,
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Opening Hymn

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

Hymn 65

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.

3. He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Refrain

4. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Refrain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

Children are invited to attend Children’s Chapel at this time *(10:30 AM Service)*

Children will return during The Peace

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (Refrain – all sing) “Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness”

Psalm 85 Marty Haugen

Lord, let us see your kind - ness;
 Lord, let us see your kind - ness.

1. Let us hear what our God proclaims: peace to the people of God, salvation is near to the ones who fear him. *(Refrain)*
2. Kindness and truth, justice and peace; truth shall spring up as the water from the earth, justice shall rain from the heavens. *(Refrain)*
3. The Lord will come and you shall know his love, justice shall walk in his pathways, salvation the gift that he brings. *(Refrain)*

A Reading from the second letter of Peter (3:8-15a)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Bells) The First Song of Isaiah

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -
 fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav-ior.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark (1:1-8)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Gospel Acclamation “The First Song of Isaiah”

Sermon The Rev. Matt Holcombe

Meditation & Reflection (10:30 service) “Light of the World” We the Kingdom

*Light of the world from the beginning. The tragedies of time were no match for your love.
From great heights of glory, you saw my story. God, you entered in and became one of us.*

The Nicene Creed The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 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 Prayers of the People Form III

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 387

Reader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Reader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Reader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Reader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Reader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Reader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Reader Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Maurice Sloane, father of Rachel Stoller.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Reader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For the sick and suffering, especially: Amy, Beth, Carl, Cassie, Charles, Dave, Deb, Debbie, Diane V., G.G., Hugh, Jaan, Karen, Kit, Laura, Mark, Mary Ann, Robert, Ron, Shirley, Tom, Virginia, Zoe, for the victims of gun violence and war, and those we pray for during our Wednesday Healing Service.

Prayers being offered at Wednesday Healing Service for:

Alice, Autume, Barbara, Bobbie, Bryce, Caleb, Carol, Cathleen, Cheryl, Chris, Christopher C., Courtney, Craig, Danielle, Darek, Dave, Debra, Dennis, Diana, Diane, Hunter, Ian, Jaan, Jan, Ji-bril, Joe, Jonathan, Judy, Kalob, Kristen, Landon, Laura D., Laura J., Leona, Marlene, Mateo, Megan, Michael, Miles, Millie, Nancy, Natalie, Peg, Peter, Peyton, Phil, Randy, Rich, Ross, Russell, Rev. Sally M., Sara, Sarah R., Sharon D., Sharon G., Sherry, Spence, Steve, Sue, Terri, Tripp, Valerie, Wolf, Zoe.

To add or update a prayer request, use this form online: <https://www.stmikeschurch.com/prayer-request> or email Diane Dennison at diane@stmikeschurch.com or call 719-598-3244.

Leader For the deployed and those serving around the world: Tyler, Anton, Thomas, Dallas, Brian, Alexander & Jason.

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially for those celebrating birthdays this week: Isaac D., B.J. G., David N., Aria, Quinn B. Keith K., Beverly R., Sharon D., Ky G., Karen H., Narba N., Janice T., Sonja A., Sue B., Kate D., Ruth C., John P., Nathan B., Candy C., Dee G., Melissa G., Heather T.; and those with anniversaries; and for those expecting: Kate D., Roxy S., and Kristin P.

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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 *(Please stand)*

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Digital Offering (To make a one-time contribution to St. Michael's or to pay your pledge online:)



1. Text the word GIVE to 719-223-3446, and follow the secure link.
2. Scan the QR code using your phone's camera.

Offertory (*Handbells*)

“Veni Emmanuel”

arr. Kathleen Wissinger

The Doxology

(8:00 AM Service Spoken)

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Hymn 381 vs. 4 (10:30AM Service Sung)

**God the Father, Light Creator,
to thee laud and honor be;
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally;
Holy Spirit, Light-Revealer,
glory, glory be to thee;
Mortals, angels, now and ever
praise the Holy Trinity!**

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 367

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is a right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*An appropriate Proper Preface is offered here and the service continues as follows.*)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (10:30 AM sung)

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 362

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

4

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and

12

earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na

23

in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes, comes in the name of the Lord

32

Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na in the high - est

(You may remain standing or kneel)

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all of your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and

daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 364


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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 364

Fraction Anthem



Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord: you take a - way the sins of the world, have
Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins of the world, have
Des - ire of na - tions, our Em - an - u - el: you take a - way the sins of the world,



7 2
mer - cy on us.
mer - cy on us.
grant us _____ peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive communion at St. Michael's. At the altar rail, you may kneel or stand, and place one hand in the other, like a manger or bowl. Once you receive the bread, you may consume it, or wait for the cup. When the wine comes to you, you may dip (intinct) your wafer into the wine and then consume it and return to your pew. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please assist the chalice bearers by guiding the chalice to your lips with one hand. If you would like to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms in an X form across your chest and a priest will offer you a blessing.

Celiac friendly: Please come to the left side (as you face the altar) and let the clergy know if you would like to receive a gluten free host and wine.

Communion Hymns

“Redeemer of the nations, come”

Hymn 55

1. Redeemer of the nations, come;
reveal yourself in virgin birth,
the birth which ages all adore,
a wondrous birth, befitting God.
2. From human will you do not spring,
but from the Spirit of our God;
O Word of God, come; take our flesh
and grow as child in Mary’s womb.
3. You came forth from the eternal God,
and you returned to that same source.
You suffered death and harrowed hell,
and reigned once more from God’s high
throne.
4. With God the Father you are one,
and one with us in human flesh.
Oh, fill our weak and dying frame
with godly strength which never fails.
5. Your cradle shines with glory’s light;
its splendor pierces all our gloom.
Our faith reflects those radiant beams;
no night shall overcome it now.
6. All praise, O unbegotten God,
all praise to you, eternal Word,
all praise, life-giving Spirit, praise,
all glory to our God Triune.

“Rejoice! Rejoice, believers”

Hymn 68

1. Rejoice! rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation!
at midnight comes the cry.
2. See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory,
the Bridegroom is at hand!
3. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption,
and ever be with thee!

“Savior of the nations, come!”

Hymn 54

1. Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin’s Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary’s son,
eager now his race to run!
3. Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.
4. Come, O Father’s saving Son,
who o’er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor Sending

When present, Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned to carry the Consecrated Gifts of Holy Communion to those who are unable, due to illness or impairment, to join us for Sunday services.

Celebrant: In the name of God and this community, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

***People:* We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

Post Communion Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

***People* 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.**

Final Blessing

Closing Hymn

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #56, vs. 1, 5-7

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!
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!
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!
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!

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Postlude

“Winchester New”

by Christopher Tambling

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Upcoming Events & New Announcements:

Today, Sunday December 10, 2023:

Sense-ational Journey to Bethlehem – 9:15 AM (*Intergenerational*)

Pageant Rehearsal – 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Vestry Person of the Day – Rachel Stoller

Christmas Light Festival – December 15, 16, 22, 23, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

(ADA/Sensory Friendly night, December 14, 6:00 - 7:00 PM)

Christmas Brass & Poinsettias Donation Forms Due – Wednesday, December 13

Blue Christmas Service – December 14, 7 PM

Habitat for Humanity Build – December 16 (RSVP)

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM

“Shine Bright!” Christmas Show by J. – Saturday, December 23, 6:30 PM

Advent 4 – Sunday, December 24, 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24, 2023

Family Service, 4:00 PM

Traditional Service, 7:00 PM

Midnight Service, 11:00 PM

Christmas Day Service – Monday, December 25, 10:00 AM

A Service for a New Year – Sunday, December 31, 10:00 AM

Family Promise/IHN Meals Needed – Sunday, December 31 – January 6 (RSVP)

RSVP to www.stmikeschurch.com/signup

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM