



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist II & Pageant at 10:30 AM

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

“Picardy”

by Craig Philips

Pageant (10:30 AM Service – See Insert)

Opening Hymn

“Lo! He comes, with clouds descending”

Hymn 57

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

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.

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.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 *(Spoken)*

Canticle 15

**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.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation The First Song of Isaiah

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -
 8
 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 John (1:6-8, 19-28)
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been

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.
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, Carolyn, Cassie, Charles, Dave, Darek, Deb, Debbie, Diane V., Eva, G.G., Hugh, Jaan, Jo, Karen, Kit, Laura, Lisa, Mark, Mary Ann, Neil, Patty, 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, Deb, Debra, Dennis, Diana, Diane, Hunter, Ian, Jaan, Jan, Ji-bri, Joe, Jonathan, Judy, Kalob, Kristen, Landon, Laura D., Laura J., Leona, Marlene, Mateo, Megan, Michael, Miles, Millie, Nancy, Peg, Peter, Peyton, Phil, Ralph, Randy, Rich, Ross, Russell, Rev. Sally M., Sara, Scott, Sharon D., Sharon G., Sherry, Spence, Steve, Sue, Susie, Terri, Tom, Tripp, Valerie, Virginia, 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: Monica C., Evan F., Jane L., Tim T., Mary A., Justine S., Ethan C., Pat N., Carol S., Elizabeth D., Lee K., Jesse B., Jeff J.; and those with anniversaries: Jim & Marion Moore, Sheron Wyre Marshall; 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 "One Small Child" by David Meece, arr. Lloyd Larson

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!**

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)*

**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.**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and
 earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na, ho - sa - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes, comes in the name of the Lord.
 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.**

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,



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

“Comfort, comfort ye my people”

Hymn 67

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
 speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 comfort those who sit in darkness
 mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
 Speak ye to Jerusalem
 of the peace that waits for them;
 tell her that her sins I cover,
 and her warfare now is over.
2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth
 in the desert far and near,
 calling us to new repentance
 since the kingdom now is here.
 Oh, that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way;
 let the valleys rise to meet him
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
3. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
 make the rougher places plain;
 let your hearts be true and humble,
 as befits his holy reign.
 For the glory of the Lord
 now o'er earth is shed abroad;
 and all flesh shall see the token
 that the word is never broken.

“Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Hymn 66

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

“Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”

Hymn 81

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind. To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

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)

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. 1-4

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!
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!
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!
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!

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

“Gabriel’s Message”

by Michael Bedford

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Upcoming Events & New Announcements:

Today, Sunday December 17, 2023:

Newcomer Class: Get Connected & Involved – 9:15 AM

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

“Shine Bright!” Christmas Show by J. Chang-Tablada – 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: (719) 598-3244 Email: contact@stmikeschurch.com

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

The Rev. Matt Holcombe, Rector, x101

The Rev. Vicki Hesse, Associate Rector, x102

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Winifred Mitchell, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gary Darress, Deacon

Owen Capps, Director of Children & Youth Ministries, x104

Ama Couch, Communications Coordinator

Diane Dennison, Receptionist & Volunteer Coordinator, x100

Amalia Dobbins, Director of Music, x115

Daniel Foster, Organist

Drew Hutchison, AV Technician

Linda Kean, Newcomer Ministry Coordinator, x106

Jan McLaughlin, Finance Manager, x105

Tamika Richardson, Sexton

Jennie Wandfluh, Director of Parish Life x 103

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Vestry

Senior Warden: Russ Howell

Junior Wardens: Danny Raider, Mike Mapes

Class of 2024: Andy Laffely, Elena Zarecky, Regina Winters

Class of 2025: Linda Page, Rachel Stoller, Ruth Morrison

Class of 2026: Lee Kulbitski, Bob Poli, Rod Sato

Treasurer: Chris Couch

Clerk: Aprel Mitchell