



**St. Michael's**  
Episcopal Church  
COLORADO SPRINGS

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023  
10:00 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 closed this morning. (It will resume a normal schedule on Sunday January 7, 2024 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](http://stmikeschurch.com/bible).* We hope you have a blessed day and week ahead.

**Prelude** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Marianne Kim

**Opening Hymn** "Hark! The glad sound!" Hymn 72

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,<br/>The Savior promised long;<br/>Let every heart prepare a throne,<br/>And every voice a song.</p> <p>2. He comes, the prisoners to release<br/>In Satan's bondage held;<br/>The gates of brass before him burst,<br/>The iron fetters yield.</p> | <p>3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,<br/>The bleeding soul to cure;<br/>And with the treasures of his grace<br/>To enrich the humble poor.</p> <p>4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,<br/>Thy welcome shall proclaim;<br/>And heaven's eternal arches ring<br/>With thy beloved Name.</p> |
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**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.**

**Kyrie** (*Spoken*) The Book of Common Prayer, Pg. 356

*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.

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.**

## A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel (7:1-11, 16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* (*Spoken*)

Canticle 15

Luke 1:46-55

**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.**

**A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Romans (16:25-27)**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (1:26-38)

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Vicki Hesse

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

<i>Reader</i>	Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
<i>People</i>	<b>That we all may be one.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
<i>People</i>	<b>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
<i>People</i>	<b>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
<i>People</i>	<b>That there may be justice and peace on the earth.</b>

*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 Peg Ask, a longtime member of St. Michael's.  
*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, Carl, Charles, Darek, Dave L., Eva, Frankie, G.G., Hugh, Jaan, Jo, Laura, Lucian, Mark, Neil, Ron, 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, Amy Autume, Barbara, Beth, Bill, Bobbie, Caleb, Carolyn, Cassie, Cathleen, Charles, Cheryl, Chris, Darek, Dave J., Dave L., Deb, Debbie, Debra, Dennis, Diana, Hunter, Jaan, Jared, Jodi, Joe, Jonathan, Joyce, Judy, Kalob, Karen P., Kit, Kristen, Laura D., Laura J., Leona, Mateo, Mary Ann, Megan, Michael, Micki, Miles, Millie, Nancy, Norm, Peg, Peyton, Phil, Ralph, Randy, Robert, Ross, Russell, Sara, Scott, Sharon D., Sharon G., Sherry, Spence, Steve, 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](mailto: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: Mark B., Shawn B., Perry K., Diane A., Daniel T., Gary D., Emily C., Gus C., Melissa G., Christopher G., Barbara P.; and those with anniversaries: Diane & Jim Anderson, Jennifer Carpenter & Rich Koshak, Jocelyn & Neil Pettigrew; 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** *(instrumental)* "The Angel Gabriel"

**The Doxology** *(Spoken)*

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

**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**

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*(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

*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.

### Taizé

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me into life.

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Ubi caritas et amor. Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

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Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

### 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 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**

“People Look East”

by Robert Lau

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**Upcoming Events & New Announcements:**

**Christmas Eve Services**

Family Service, 4:00 PM (Nursery)  
Traditional Service, 7:00 PM \* (No Nursery)  
Midnight Service, 11:00 PM \* (No Nursery)

**Christmas Day Service** – Monday, December 25, 10:00 AM \* (No Nursery)

**Church Office Closed** – Tuesday, December 26

**End of Year Giving Due by Date** – Thursday, December 28

**A Service for a New Year** – Sunday, December 31, 10:00 AM \* (Nursery)

**Church Office Closed** – Monday, January 1

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

*\* Livestreamed*

**RSVP to [www.stmikeschurch.com/signup](http://www.stmikeschurch.com/signup)**

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**

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The Rev. Vicki Hesse, Associate Rector, x102	<a href="mailto:Vicki@stmikeschurch.com">Vicki@stmikeschurch.com</a>
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders, Assisting Clergy	<a href="mailto:Joanne@stmikeschurch.com">Joanne@stmikeschurch.com</a>
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Jennie Wandfluh, Director of Parish Life x 103	<a href="mailto:Jennie@stmikeschurch.com">Jennie@stmikeschurch.com</a>

**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

