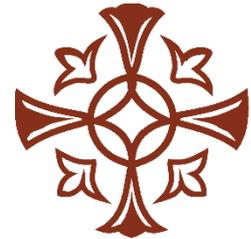


**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church**  
**Communion Service**  
**December 6, 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent**

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### The Lighting of the Wreath

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord... make paths straight. Valleys and mountains shall stand side by side. God's glory is about to be revealed to all humankind.

We light the second Advent Candle as a sign of peace in a world broken by violence and injustice. God's Messiah is on his way. Repent... be forgiven of your sins... be washed in the waters of baptism... share in God's transforming grace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.***

### Opening Hymn

### Opening Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

***You come to your people and set them free.***

### Confession of Sin

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9)

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.***

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Kyrie Eleison

Heavenly Father,  
you call us to repent of our sins:  
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you declared the forgiveness of God:  
teach us to forgive one another.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you search our hearts and show us the truth:  
direct us in your way of righteousness.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## The Collect of the Day

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*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Officiant*      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.**

## The Lessons

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### The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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 for ever. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 85 (vv. 1-2, 8-13)

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

### The Second Reading

### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Mark 1: 1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark. **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."

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

## The Sermon

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### The Nicene Creed

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***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**

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As we wait for Jesus to come among us in a world where peace seems so far off, let us offer prayers to God who said, "Peace be with you."

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory; for the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us; for the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For this parish community of St. Michael and All Angels, that the Lord would bless us with health and vitality in pursuit of the mission he has given us. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For Sean our bishop and all bishops, for the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison, remembering especially those on our prayer list and those for whom we now pray, silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed, especially those whom we now name, silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. Lord, hear us.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Joining our voices with the Angel Michael, and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O Lord.***

O Key of David, scepter of the house of Israel: You open and none can shut, you shut and none can open. Come and free the captives from prison, who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

***And also with you.***

## Announcements

1. The mitten tree continues to look bare. While we cannot fill the tree while we are unable to enter the building, please do continue to keep stockpiling your donations to add to the tree once we are able to resume in-person worship. If you need to arrange a drop-off of donations, please contact the church office at 716.836.0220 so that we can open the doors for your donation.
2. Join our Facebook community and visit our website [www.stmichaelsbuffalo.org](http://www.stmichaelsbuffalo.org)
3. There is a Vestry meeting this coming Tuesday at 6:00 pm via Zoom. We will be discussing standard business. We will postpone discussion of Chapter 1 of our book until our January meeting.

## Invitation to Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

# The Great Thanksgiving

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## Offertory Music

### Eucharistic Prayer 2

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
*Officiant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*          **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Officiant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*          **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being; sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**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.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Michael and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN. **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

***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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

***In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.***

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

***Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people,***

***forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

## Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Closing Hymn

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***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental and diocesan restrictions, the church is currently closed for in-person meetings. Please contact us via email or phone.***

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## Notices

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