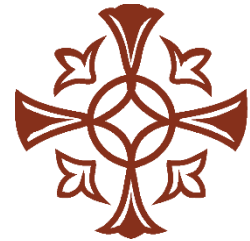


St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

Communion Service

December 13, 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent



The Lighting of the Wreath

Listen. Hear the good news: God's promised Messiah is coming. He brings good news for the poor and oppressed. He will bind up broken hearts. He will proclaim release to those who are held captive.

We light the third Advent Candle as a sign of joy — a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

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 prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant 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.**

The Lessons

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

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

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

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.

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

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John. **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 sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

***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

As we wait with joy for Jesus Christ, the one who is to come, let us offer prayers to God who sent his Son as the true light into the world.

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 Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, desire of all nations and Savior of all peoples, come and save us, O Lord our God. 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
3. Bishop Sean has extended the suspension of in-person indoor services through the end of 2020 at this time. Christmas Eve worship will be held on YouTube on December 24 at 5:00 pm. If you desire communion either to-go or a curbside communion service, Pastor Jason is offering both on Christmas Eve from 2 – 4. Please see the website for details.
4. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021 at 10:30 am. Due to the suspension of in-person gatherings, we will meet via Zoom. If you do not have a computer, please plan to find a Zoom buddy or join by phone. Details are in the Christmas letter you will be receiving from the church soon.

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

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.**

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.



St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

81 Burke Drive
Buffalo, NY 14215
(716) 836-0220

Email: stmikesbuf@aol.com
Website: www.stmichaelsbuffalo.org
[facebook.com/StMichaelsEpiscopalBuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsEpiscopalBuffalo)

Rev. Jason Miller, Priest in Charge
(716) 204-6433 (cell)

Email: frjasonmiller@gmail.com

Robert Weekley, Pastoral Assistant
(716) 866-7464

Email: rcweekley@aol.com

Carol Weekley, Secretary
(716) 861-7248

Email: oficmgr@aol.com

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.

Notices

The Scripture texts are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA. The text of this service is reproduced from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979, The Episcopal Church, USA, *Enriching Our Worship 1*, 1998, Church Publishing Incorporated, *The Book of Occasional Services 2018*, and *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*, 2000. Hymns are reprinted under License Number **CCLI: 1323637**. All rights reserved. Used by permission.