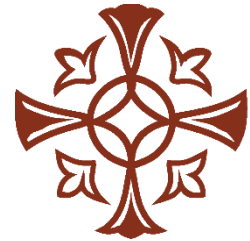


**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church**  
**Communion Service**  
**December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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### The Lighting of the Wreath

Behold! The Lord your God breathes new life into dead spaces. God's Messiah is coming into our world as God's final word — life will triumph over death. Do not be afraid.

We light the fourth Advent Candle as a sign of our hope in God's redeeming love. The Messiah is coming to establish a kingdom in the shape of that very love. And this kingdom will last for ever and ever.

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 exalted the humble and meek:  
give us humble and contrite hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:  
be planted also in our hearts and lives.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you overshadowed Mary,  
that she might become the God-bearer:  
fill us with your heavenly gifts.  
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.

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.**

## The Lessons

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### The First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

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.

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

## Canticle 15 – The Song of Mary

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.

## The Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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.

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

## The Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

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 with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

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 Wisdom, breath from the mouth of God most high, you reign from one end of the earth to the other, and govern all creation with strong and tender care: Come and teach us the way of wisdom. 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. Tomorrow night at 7:00 pm, we will premiere our *Longest Night Service*, which acknowledges the difficulty some people have with loneliness and sadness during the holiday season. Bishop Sean and other readers from across the Partnership and beyond will provide Scriptural words of hope during the service, which focuses on Christ, who is the light of the world, overcoming the darkness. Please join us on YouTube and spread the word.
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

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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.**

## 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.***



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## St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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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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