

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
12 NOVEMBER 2023

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. YOU CAN FIND THE NUMBERED HYMNS IN THE BLUE HYMNAL. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY GEORGE SOLOMON AND FAMILY IN LOVING MEMORY OF JANE SOLOMON.

Hymn 68, Rejoice, Rejoice Believers And Let Your Lights Appear

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.

O Lord, open our lips. And our mouths shall proclaim your praise. Praise the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** *The people are seated.*

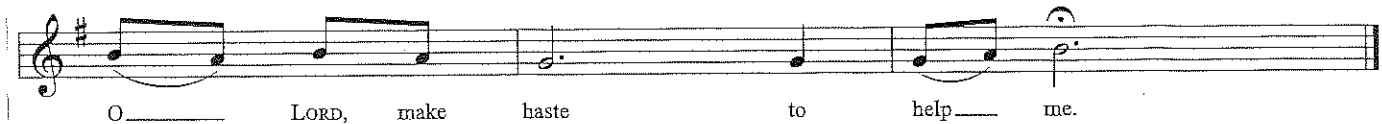
A Reading from the Prophet Amos

In this Hebrew Bible lesson, the prophet proclaims that the day of the Lord will be a day of deep gloom. The Lord is done with rites without righteousness, and religiosity as a substitute for equity

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

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

Psalm 70 is a prayer for help and vindication. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated.



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Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. **R.** Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!" **R.** But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

In this reading, Paul offers a vision of how the dead in Christ will rise and then, together with those who are alive, be caught up to meet the Lord in the sky. The essential meaning is clear: we shall be with the Lord.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

All stand.

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones, raise the glad strain, alleluia! Cry out, dominions, princedoms, powers; virtues archangels, angels' choirs: Alleluia! (5x)

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared with guests at a wedding reception. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

Then Jesus said, 'Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.'

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

As we stand in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray; **R.**

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that God will always walk with them in their journey; let us pray. **R.**

For our families and friends, that God will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray; **R.**

For those who are lonely, hungry, persecuted, or forgotten, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray; **R.**

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray **R.**

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray. **R.**

Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list, for special concerns and for thanksgivings.

Jim Veit, Karen Schulze, Ed Haug, Susan Rich, Lynn Kerber, Donald Burton;

For the faithful departed: Jim Johns, Jane Solomon

For Andrea Abdullah and Joseph Champine, married here yesterday.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

The people are invited to offer their own prayers and petitions.

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you. Hear all our prayers which we make this day, and forgive us all our sins. Grant that we and the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All persons are invited to share in the Eucharist and to receive the gifts of Christ's Presence in bread and wine. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand supported by the left; the wine by sipping from the cup or by dipping the bread. If you desire a blessing instead of receiving Communion, let the priest know when you come forward. Communion can also be brought to you where you are seated, if that is more convenient; please speak with a greeter.

Offertory Hymn 324, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

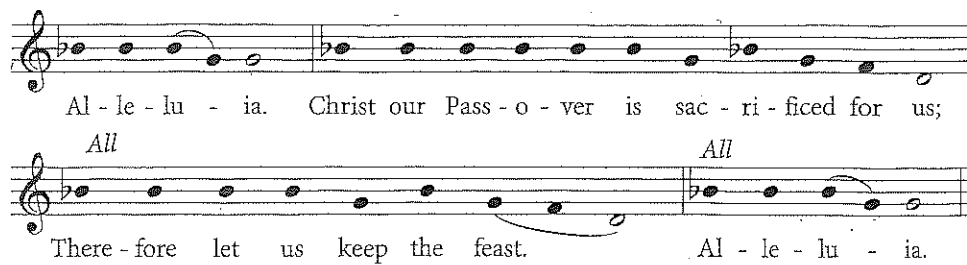
God of time and eternity, of the living and the dead . . .

who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,

Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and remember that Christ died for you.

Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and be filled with thanks.

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Living God; In the eucharist you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, and bring us to the joy you promise. Now send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The mercy, grace and peace of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
by upon and remain with you, this day and forever. Amen.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 61, Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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