

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 3 DECEMBER 2023
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READINGS: ISAIAH 64:1-9; PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9; MARK 13:24-37

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 on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Laurie Wood in loving memory of Marylou Isenberg.

Hymn 596: Judge Eternal, Throned In Splendor, Lord Of Lords And King Of Kings

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.

The musical score is written for three parts: Unison, Cantor, and All. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system is for Unison, the second for Cantor, and the third for All. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy.

Music: Ian Forrester, ©.

*This Kyrie may be sung with or without optional petitions.
If petitions are used, they may be said or sung.*

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

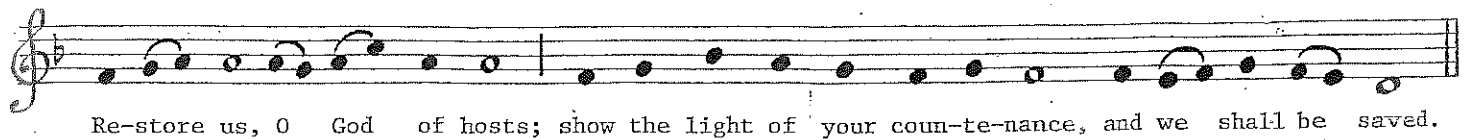
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The Hebrew Bible lesson presents a contrite plea to God for merciful justice. The people have sinned grievously. They pray that the Lord will remember them as God's children, and temper divine anger.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80 is a lament and a plea to the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, that God will turn away divine anger and restore the people. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated.



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. R. O Lord, God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted. R. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so we will never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

In this reading, Paul greets the new disciples in Corinth, telling them of his gratitude to God on their behalf and offering comfort and assurance.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

all stand.

The cantor sings "alleluia" and all repeat:



Cantor: Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

All: Alleluia

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

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! O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice, etc.

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

Let us offer our prayers to God, who clothes us in the armor of light and offers us the gift of immortal life, responding after each petition, "Lord, come to us."

For peace throughout the world, that violence and hatred may cease and that all may know the true power of the Prince of Peace; let us pray.

For people of faith throughout the world, especially for those who endure religious persecution, that our prayers may empower them in their time of need; let us pray.

For the grace to choose the path that leads to eternal life, generously giving toward the relief of poverty and despair; that through our actions the saving love of Christ may be revealed; let us pray.

That we may hunger for the teachings of the Lord, seeking opportunities for learning, prayer and fellowship with those who follow the way of Jesus; let us pray.

In thanksgiving for the life-giving gifts of those who have died, leaving us their legacy of faith and hope; let us pray.

Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list: Lori, Nina, Vicki, Jim Veit, Karen Schulze, Ed Haug, Susan Rich, Lynn Kerber, Donald Burton

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

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.

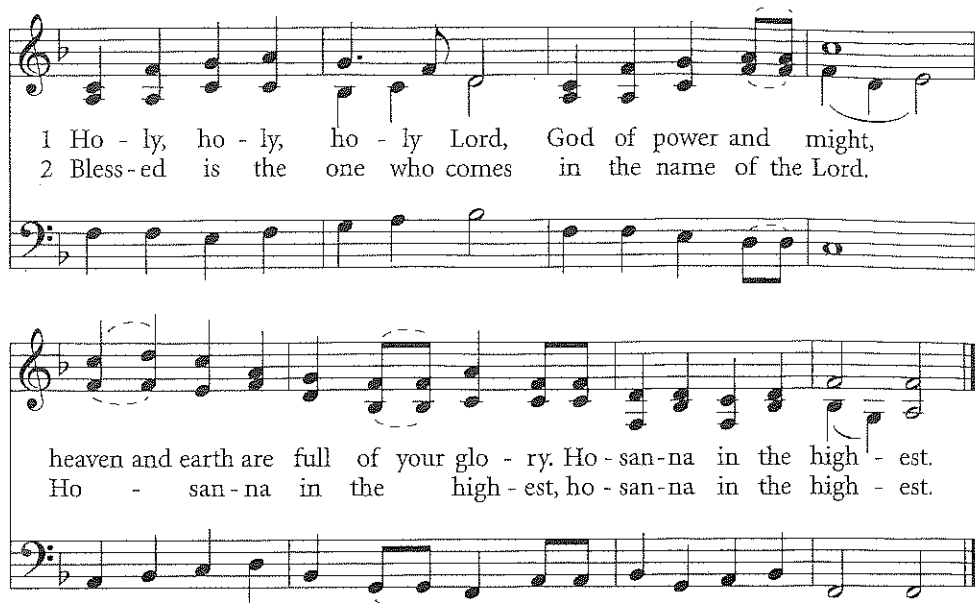
Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 58: Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending, Once For Our Salvation Slain

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth . . . who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



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Music: Kenneth George Finlay, adapt. Gordon Appleton. © Broomhill Hyndland Parish Church. GLENFINLAS

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

Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance 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:

Almighty God; The God for whom we wait. You have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us every watchful that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

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

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 73: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

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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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