

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – 4 FEBRUARY 2024 - THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

READINGS: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

We welcome the Rev. Matthew Lukens as our celebrant and preacher.

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.

Hymn 538, God Of Mercy, God Of Grace, Show The Brightness Of Thy Face

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.**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In our Hebrew Bible lesson, the prophet Isaiah summons the people to renew their trust and confidence in God. Those who turn to the Lord will find their strength replenished; they will not be disappointed.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

Psalm 147 is a hymn of praise to the Lord, who rules over nature in wisdom and has shown faithfulness to Israel.



Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! how pleasant it is to honor him with praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. R. The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp. R. He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. R. He is not impressed by the might of a horse; he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor. Hallelujah! R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

In this reading, we learn how Paul seeks to become all things to all people. Some may misunderstand and think him unprincipled, but Paul's only concern is with the essentials to the gospel.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones: Raise the glad strain, Alleluia! Cry out, dominions, principedoms, 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 Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Matthew Lukens

What Do We Believe?

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

Sisters and brothers, let us lift our hearts in faith to the one who hears all prayers and holds close all those in need.

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the miracle of changing water into wine: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the calling of the twelve disciples: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the healing of those troubled in body, mind or spirit: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
Lord, hear our prayer.

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we remember the clergy and people of All Saints, Pontiac. We pray for peace throughout the world, especially in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Richard Simonds, Karen Schulze, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Nina, Cheri. We pray for the continuing recovery of Lori Prnior, Jada Rhein, Georgiana Solomon. We pray for all who have died, and especially for Tom Koch, whom we remember at his Year's Time; and for Connie Ellis, who died this past week. And I ask that you offer your own prayers, naming before God those whom you wish to remember. *Silence is kept while prayers are offered.*

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.**

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you and forgive the sins of those who have confessed to you. Grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may exchange a brief, verbal greeting with those around them.

Holy Communion

Hymn 335, I Am The Bread Of Life

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:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
2 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Almighty and everliving God; We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. 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 blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

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

Hymn 655, O Jesus, I Have Promised To Serve Thee To The End

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

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