

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 8 DECEMBER 2024  
WELCOME! THE SERVICE ORDER OUTLINES OUR WORSHIP. HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BLUE HYMNAL.  
READINGS: MALACHI 3:1-4; CANTICLE 16; PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11; LUKE 3:1-6

OUR READERS: AJ HAWKS AND STACEY FISHER-LEWIS

ORGAN: PRELUDE ON "COME QUICKLY, SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS" – GERALD NEAR, B. 1942

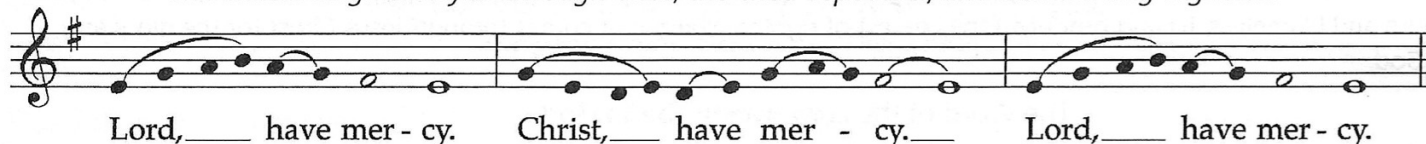
### Hymn 59: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding, Christ Is Nigh It Seems To Say

#### 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 cantor sings the Kyrie through once; the choir repeats it, and then all sing together:*



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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

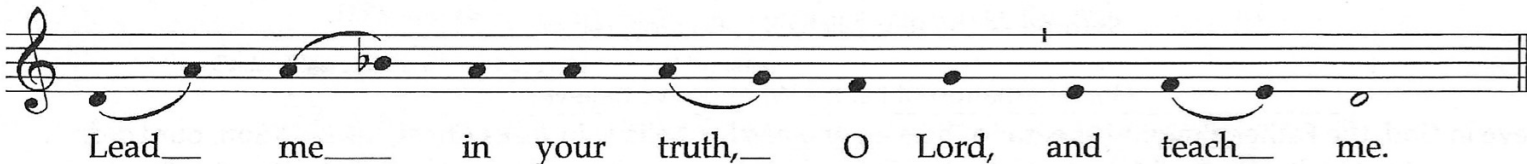
*The people are seated.*

#### A Reading From The Prophet Malachi

The prophet foretells that God's messenger will be sent to make ready the Lord's way as the day of judgment approaches.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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



*"Blessed Be The Lord God Of Israel" is our canticle for this morning. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and the refrain is sung again at the conclusion.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### A Reading From Paul's Letter To The Philippians

Paul greets the new disciples in the town of Philippi. He expresses great confidence that the work of grace begun in these new Christians will be brought to fulfillment.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

*All stand The cantor sings "alleluia"; all repeat, and sing again after the verse.*



V. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

R. Alleluia (3x)

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

The response to our petitions: Hear our prayer.

*Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed.*

For the people of Lebanon, Israel, Gaza and Syria. For the people of Russia and Ukraine. For the people of Sudan. And for all countries in the global community for which we pray for peace. In our Diocese: Canterbury House at the University of Ann Arbor. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Province Episcopal Church of Sudan. For those on our prayer list: Karen Schulze, Lori Pranior, Ed Haug, Lynn Kerber, Tom Casey, Donald Burton, Christopher, Berc Backhurst, Nina McAlinden.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

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.**

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

*The people may greet each other briefly.*

## Holy Communion

*All are invited to receive Communion. The bread is placed in the palm of your right hand. You may dip the bread in the wine or sip the wine from the chalice. Instead of Communion and to receive a blessing, kindly keep your hands folded.*

Choir Anthem: Every Valley – Text, Isaiah 40:4-5; Music, John Ness Beck 1930-1987

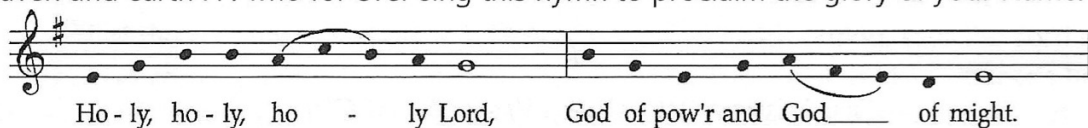
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low, and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain, and all flesh shall see it together. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

*After the anthem, all stand for the presentation of the oblations.*

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:



Cantor: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.



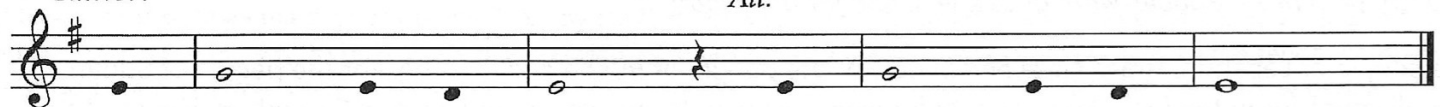
Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



*The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Lord's Prayer.*

*After the Breaking of the Bread:*

Celebrant: Jesus, true branch of Jesse's tree. You take away the sins of the world,  
*Cantor:* *All:*



...have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Music during Communion: Advent Lullaby – Text, Linda Muehlig; Music, Carol A. Muehlig

Lullaby, child to be born, thou shalt be carried safe and warm, gently cradled, kept from harm, Until I hold thee in my arms. Lullaby, my only one, Sleep, thy passings yet to come from heaven to earth to heaven, to us thy short time is given. Lullaby below my heart, ever within, ever a part, now thy life is mine to tend, and ours shall be for thee to mend. Lullaby, for life to come, my joy, no less my son, if less a king and poor, I could not love thee more.

*After all have received, please stand and pray together:*

Almighty God; God of timeless grace, each Advent you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us forth, renewed by the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and keep us ever watchful to be ready when the Son of Man comes again. 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, now and always. Amen.

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

**Hymn 65, Prepare The Way, O Zion, Your Christ Is Drawing Near!**

*The ringing of the Angelus commemorates Gabriel's visit to Mary and the angels who announced Jesus' birth. The bell is rung three times, and all pray silently, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among all people, and blessed is your son, Jesus". This is repeated twice more and concludes with nine strokes of the bell.*

Organ: Prepare The Royal Way – J. William Greene, b. 1956

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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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