

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 15 DECEMBER 2024
WELCOME! THE SERVICE ORDER OUTLINES OUR WORSHIP. HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BLUE HYMNAL.

READINGS: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20; CANTICLE 9; PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7; LUKE 3:7-18

ROSES AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY BEV VEIT IN HONOR OF JIM'S BIRTHDAY (TODAY!);
AND BY LAURIE WOOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARYLOU ISENBERG.

OUR READERS: BRIAN PAYTON AND SALLY GRAHAM

Organ: Prelude on "Come Quickly, Savior Of The Nations"- BWV 659, Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

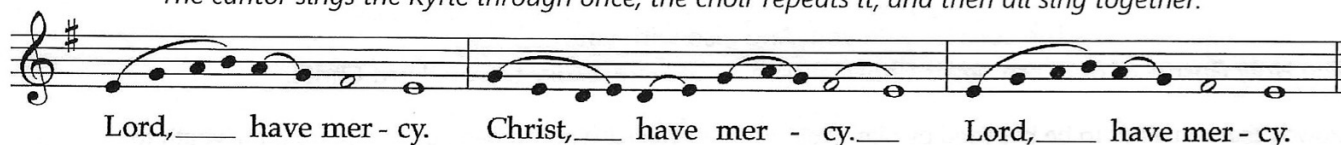
Hymn 76, On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry Announces That The Lord Is Nigh

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you
and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

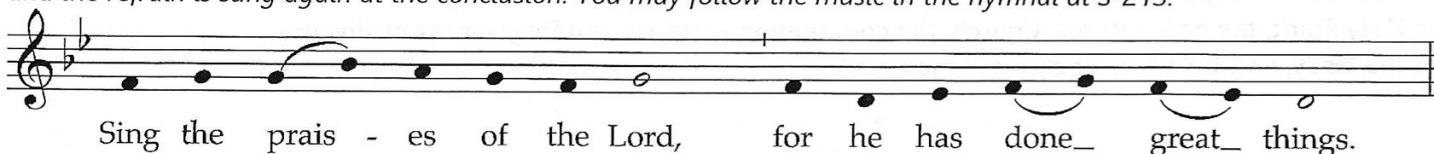
A Reading From The Prophet Zephaniah

In the reading from the Hebrew Bible, the prophet foretells a time when the judgment of Israel will be
ended. The fortunes of Israel will be restored, and the nation will be praised by all peoples.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken
away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear
disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your
God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult
over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will
deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into
praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you
renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9, "Surely It Is God Who Saves Me," is sung in place of a gradual psalm. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat,
and the refrain is sung again at the conclusion. You may follow the music in the hymnal at S-213.



Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

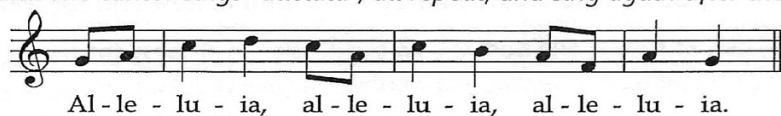
A Reading From Paul's Letter To The Philippians

In this New Testament lesson, Paul invites the new disciples at Philippi to exult in the Lord, who is near at hand.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

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



V. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor. **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.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God and rejoice in the gift of Christ, responding, "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: St. Luke's, Shelby Township; In the Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

For those on our prayer list: Karen Schulze, Lori Pranior, Ed Haug, Lynn Kerber, Tom Casey, Donald Burton, Christopher, Berc Backhurst, Nina McAlinden, Raymond Simmons.

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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - words: hymn 56; music: Ian Higginson, b.1959

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.**

Blessed be your Name, Lord God of time and eternity . . . we join in their unending hymn of praise:



Cantor: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.



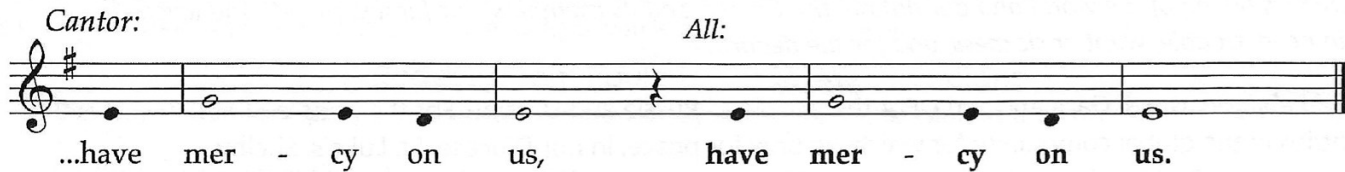
Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



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

After the Breaking of the Bread:

Celebrant: Key of David and Dayspring from on high: You take away the sins of the world,



Music during Communion: The Shepherds Sing - words: George Herbert 1593-1633; music: Bob Chilcott, b. 1965

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be? My God, no hymn for thee? My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds of thoughts, and words, and deeds. The pasture is thy word: the streams, thy grace Enriching all the place. Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers Out-sing the day-light hours. Then we will chide the sun for letting night Take up his place and right: We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should Himself the candle hold. I will go searching, till I find a sun Shall stay, till we have done; A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly, as frost-nips suns look idly. Then we will sing, shine all our own day, and one another pay: His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine, Till evening his beams sing, and my music shine.

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Merciful God; God of timeless grace and expectation; May this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Savior. 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 we, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with life enduring; and the blessing of 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 74, Blest Be The King Whose Coming Is In The Name Of God!

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: Fanfare on the hymn tune "Valet Will Ich Dir Geben – Dan Miller, 1954

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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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