

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 22 DECEMBER 2024

THE SERVICE ORDER OUTLINES OUR WORSHIP. HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BLUE HYMNAL.

WE WELCOME THE RT. REV. BONNIE A. PERRY, BISHOP OF MICHIGAN, FOR PARISH VISITATION.

READINGS: Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 3; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

OUR READERS: STACEY FISCHER LEWIS AND CHERYL MAC DONALD

Organ: Prelude on "Veni Emmanuel" -Gerald Near b. 1942

Hymn 117 (insert) My Soul Gives Glory To My God – *Morning Song*

THE WORD OF GOD

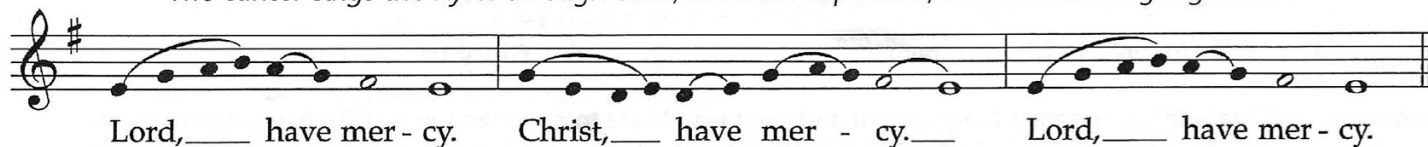
Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

There is one body and one Spirit; **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; **One God and Father of all.**

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

A Reading From The Prophet Micah

Our opening lesson presents an ancient prophecy which foresees the day when a new ruler shall come forth for Israel out of David's city, Bethlehem.

The prophet said, "You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace."

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

Canticle 3, My Soul Doth Magnify The Lord, is sung in place of the gradual psalm – see insert.

A Reading From The Letter To The Hebrews

This New Testament reading describes the purpose of Jesus' coming into the world – to make an offering in his body for our sanctification.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

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



V. Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. 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 sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted her cousin. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Then Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

Sermon – Bishop Perry

Confirmation and Reception – The Prayer Book, p. 415

For Confirmation: Jennifer Anne Magee; Albert Lee Hawks, Jr.

For Reception: Brooks David Daniel-Hoste

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: Ave Maria - Chris Bearer b. 1974

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. You are blessed among women, and blessed also is Jesus, the child of your body.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray always for us sinners, now and when we die. 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 . . . 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: Desire of nations, our Emmanuel. You take away the sins of the world:



Music during Communion: O Magnum Mysterium – Morten Lauridsen b. 1943

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Eternal God; Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop blesses the people and they are then dismissed:

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

Hymn 56: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel -- *Veni Emmanuel*

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: *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel* – Andrew Carter b. 1939

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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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