



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

¶ *The service follows the Order for Holy Eucharist beginning on page 323 of The Book of Common Prayer*

¶ *The musical setting of the Mass Ordinary is the Advent Mass on Picardy of Robert Lehman*

Organ Voluntary

Partita on *Gabriel's Message*

Kevin J. Sadowski (1955-2003)

Hymn at the Procession - 74

We sing of Christ the King, who came not in royal state but in great humility for our sakes.

Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed ✝ be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

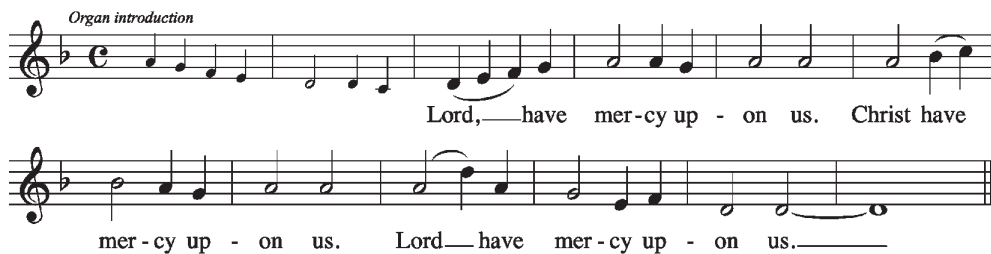
¶ *The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ¶ *People* Amen.

Kyrie eleison

g Sung by All

Organ introduction



Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

g People Amen.

g Then all are seated

The Word of God

The Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler 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 travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren 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 dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And this shall be peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

g All remain seated for the singing of the Psalm

♩ Sung by the Choir

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; *
 show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim.
 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up thy strength, and come to help us.
 Turn us again, O God; *
 show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
 O Lord God of hosts, *
 how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?
 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears, *
 and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours, *
 and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 Turn us again, thou God of hosts; *
 show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *
 and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
 world without end. Amen.

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,’ as it is written of me in the roll of the book.” When he said above, “Thou hast 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, “Lo, I have come to do thy will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

☞ *All stand for the singing of the Hymn and Gospel Procession*

Hymn at the Sequence - 66

With words by Charles Wesley, this hymn proclaims Christ as our salvation and our hope.

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

Gospeler ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Peter James Speropulos

¶ Following the Sermon, all stand and say together

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, †
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People ¶ *All kneel as the Deacon says these Prayers*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Have mercy we pray on those who now suffer the miseries of wars not of their own making. Have compassion on the wounded and dying; comfort the broken-hearted; confound the hatred and madness of those who make war; guide our rulers, bring war to an end, bring peace across the world. Unite us all under the reign of thy Son, the Prince of Peace, before whose judgement seat the rulers of the world will give account, and in whose name we pray.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless † thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Michael and All Angels, Blessed George, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ¶ *People Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

¶ *Celebrant and People*

Almighty God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent,

and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,

have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then the Celebrant stands, pronounces Absolution*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and truth faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following Comfortable Words*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1–2

¶ *All stand*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

¶ *Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord*

Announcements

The Church of St. Michael & St. George is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who donate as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your donation in the collection plate or use the QR code below to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish and our mission, in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.



The Holy Communion

Motet at the Offertory

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
et benedictus
fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria,
ora pro nobis.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
and blessed
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
pray for us.

Words: Luke 1 and traditional prayer

Music: Jacques Arcadelt (1507-1568)

¶ Following the singing of the Anthem, all stand to sing

Hymn at the Presentation - Veni, veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

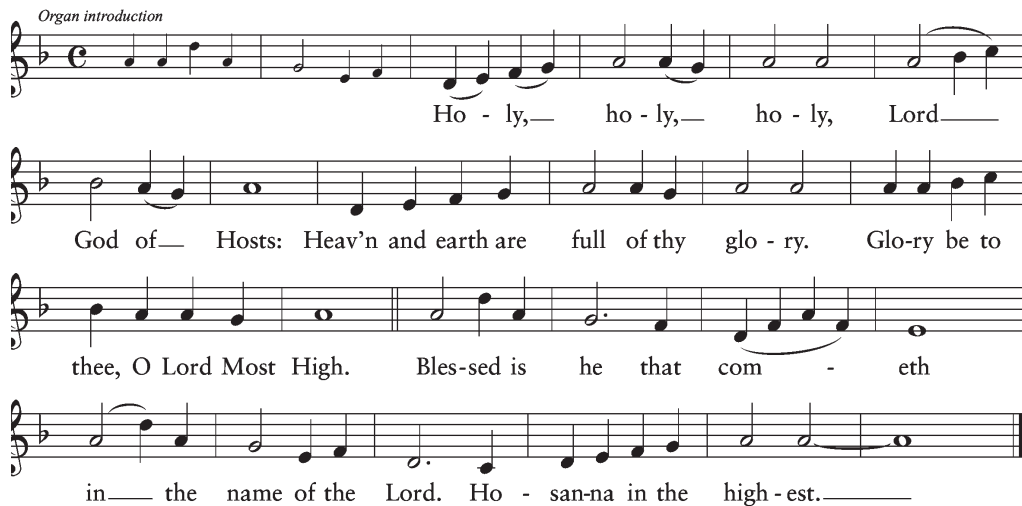
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus *g* *Sung by all*

Organ introduction



Ho - ly, — ho - ly, — ho - ly, Lord —
God of — Hosts: Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo-ry be to
thee, O Lord Most High. Bles-sed is he that com - eth
in — the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est. —

g *The People kneel*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make

here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled ✝ with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. ¶ *All* **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept; then is sung

Agnus Dei *¶ Sung by all*

Organ introduction



O Lamb of God, that tak'st a-way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O
Lamb of God, that tak'st a-way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that tak'st a-way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access *¶ Said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation and Ministration of Communion

¶ All Christians baptized with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Proceed to the Altar Rail when invited by the Usher. To receive the Bread, extend your palms, crossed and upward; when offered the Chalice, please assist in guiding it. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing; please indicate this to the Priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

¶ Holy Communion is distributed both at the High Altar and in St. Mary's Chapel. When directed, please follow the Ushers' direction. Those who are not able to come to the High Altar are always welcome to proceed to St. Mary's Chapel.

Carol at Holy Communion

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Words: Basque carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: arr. Malcom Archer (b.1952)

Hymn at Holy Communion - 258

☞ Sung by all

The Postcommunion Prayer

☞ Said by all kneeling

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Advent Blessing ✠ ¶ *The Celebrant blesses the People*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

¶ *People Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ¶ *People Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ¶ *People Amen.*

And the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *All stand*

The Dismissal ¶ *The People are dismissed with these words*

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

¶ *All stand*

Hymn at the Retiring Procession - 269

Organ Voluntary

Toccata on *Veni Emmmanuel*

Andrew Carter (b.1939)

This Morning's Liturgy

† Colors play an important part of the worship of the Church. They change according to the seasons of the Church year and the liturgical tasks at hand. The colors worn at the Church of St. Michael & St. George are drawn from colors worn in England before the Reformation. In Advent we use blue, shades of which we see in the sky before sunrise. Blue is also often associated with hope, the coming of the King, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	<i>Priest Associate; Theologian in Residence</i>
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Mr. Joseph Andrew Arndt	<i>Organist and Director of Music</i>
Mrs. Heather Martin Cooper	<i>Associate Organist</i>

