

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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The Word of God

Prelude, Bell Choir

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

-- J. Behnke

Opening Hymn #68

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Advent 3

Celebrant The evening of the year is upon us.

People **We enter the darkness and wait for light's return.**

Reader We light one candle to remind us of God's light.

The first candle is lit.

Celebrant All of our waiting is a waiting for God.

People **God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.**

Reader We light a second candle to remind us of the light of justice in the prophet's words.

People **We open our hearts to the light of justice, and ask for help to create a just world.**

The second candle is lit.

Celebrant All our waiting is a waiting for God.

People **God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.**

Reader We light a third candle to remind us of John, who calls us to wade in the waters of new life.

People **We open our hearts to our own lights, enkindled in baptism, and ask for help to carry that light into a dark world.**

The third candle is lit.

Celebrant All our waiting is a waiting for God.

People **God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.**

Priest Blessed Be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Priest Let us pray

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.**

Kyrie

Hymnal, S-96

Priest The Lord be with you

People ***And also with you***

Priest Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

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 Lessons

The First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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.

Isaiah 12:2-6

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.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading*Philippians 4:4-7*

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.

Gradual Hymn, Alleluia II #34*The First Song of Isaiah***The Gospel***Luke 3:7-18*

The Gospel of the Lord 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."

And 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

The Homily

The Reverend Sharon Voelker

The Nicene Creed

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 of the People

As we wait with joy for Jesus Christ, the one who is to come, let us offer prayers to God who sent his Son as the true light into the world.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For all bishops, priests, and deacons; for Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, for Bonnie our Bishop, Bishop Mota, ELCA Bishop Donald Kreiss, for Sharon our priest and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the church throughout the world especially for Canterbury House in Ann Arbor, St. Luke's in Shelby Twp. and St. Mary, Full of Grace in Mao, DR and the faithful in every place.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those on our parish prayer list, especially **Dennis; James Bender; Katie Blouin; Cindy Bouchard; Adam Bridgewater; Liz Brown; Amy C.; Denise C.; Jack Coatta; Terry Coatta; Jerry Elliot; Angela Ferris; Midge Ferris; Allen Fields; Barbara Garrison; Wesley Harnack; Samantha Haremza, David Kelly; Gary M.; Jerry M.; Anderson Moreno; Trisha Neuenschwander; Sydney Owen; Tom P.; Patrick; Riendl Family; Rosalie; Carolyn and Michael Roy; Benjamin Runyan; Sophia Russell; Christine Saiter; Del Saiter; Tom and Joyce Yarnevich; Brandon; Edward; Lucas; Leslie and Jim Richardson; Char Wall; Matthew; Lyla Joy; Laura; Patty; Father Bob Wollard; Ryan; Sharon Yates; Amanda K.; Nick; Nicole; Aurie; Ricky, Payton K., Pema, Will** and for those we remember aloud or spoken silently in our hearts (pause),

For the dying and the dead.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, and all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Celebrant:

O Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, desire of all nations and savior of all peoples, come and save us, O Lord our God. Glory to you forever.

Amen.

The Confession of Sin

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest and People:

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.

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

The Peace

Priest The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory, Chancel Choir *Come, Emmanuel* -- D. Besig

The Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him 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.

Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*** S-130

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: *(Sunday school children return to parents)*

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

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

***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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God

S-164

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Haf trones lamp fardig

-- P Manz

All baptized persons are invited to receive communion at God's table. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, you may indicate this by crossing your arms in front of your chest at the altar. Communion can be brought to those in the pews with mobility issues. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

For those who are participating through YouTube, the following prayer of "spiritual communion" may be said when actual reception of Holy Communion is not possible. It is meant to be said silently or aloud by each individual at the time when communion would normally occur.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me in this life and in the life to come. Amen

(from Washington National Cathedral; material adapted from *Prayer of St. Alphonsus Ligouri*)

The Postcommunion Prayer

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. And now, Father, 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

Closing Hymn #556

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!

Vs. 1-3

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

Marion

-- S. Metzger

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

Happy Anniversary

Doug & Beth White, Kathy Longcore & Clarence Millen

Happy Birthday

Liz Brown, Dani Hamm, Byron Lewinski, Del Saiter Jr, Judy Saiter, Joanna Moreno, Jack Westlake, David Weill, Lily Hack, Angie Agorgianitis, Andrew Przytulski

Sunday Assistance

Sunday, December 15th – Ushers: John Ferris Jr, Doug White
Readers: Greg Walter, Bill Richardson, Lois Vestuto
Coffee Hour: Dianne Hammond & Maggie Raymer

Sunday, December 22nd – Ushers: Dianne Hammond, Francine Klein
Readers: Pat Kent, Gail Fleming, Beth White
Coffee Hour: St. Nicholas Brunch

Christmas Eve, December 24th – Ushers:
Readers: Lois Vestuto, Carole Wollard, John Ferris Jr

Christmas Day, December 25th – Ushers:
Readers: Francine Klein, Bill Richardson

Sunday, December 29th – Ushers: Justice Moor, Scott Slocum
Readers: Lois Vestuto, Greg Walter, Gail Fleming
Coffee Hour: Judy Saiter & Lois Vestuto

Announcements

Healing services are on the 1st and 3rd Sunday during Communion at the 10:00 am service.

There is a basket in the Narthex for the Treesgiving Foundation. They will be taking donations until the end of December. If you are aware of anyone who is homebound or could benefit from a tree, please contact Lois Vestuto or Emily Hack as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign has begun. Please be thinking of what this community means to you and how you can help in its success. Forms are available at the back of the church.

The Vestry is searching for new members. Three people are going off the vestry this year. If you are interested in being on the Vestry, please let the Vestry know.

The next visit to the Jewish Life Center with Bob VanFleet will be on December 15th.

Christmas flower forms are available at the back of church. The cost is \$20 and they are due back on or before **December 15th**.

If you aren't able to host coffee hour, please consider donating to the coffee hour fund. The fund helps to cover the cost of disposable items and coffee supplies.

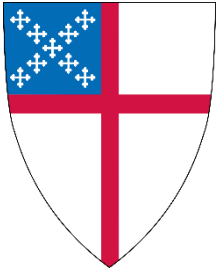
There are postcards at the back of church that were sent out to local neighborhoods to invite families to our services. If you know anyone you would like to invite, please feel free to take them to distribute.

St. Andrew's has agreed to help one Veteran family and one Pierce Middle School student for Christmas this year. Wishlist tags are hung in the Narthex. The red tag gifts are for the Pierce student, those need to be returned on or before **Dec 15th** to get to the school before break. The green tag gifts need to be returned no later than **Dec 22nd**. Please wrap the gifts with the tag attached and place them under the tree in the Narthex or to the office during office hours.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 15th – Adult Christmas Party (5:00 pm), sign-up sheet is posted in Richardson Room
- Dec. 16th – Mahjong *suspended this week*, AA & Al-Anon (8:00 pm)
- Dec. 17th – Office hours (2:00-5:00 pm), Vestry Meeting (7:00 pm)
- Dec. 18th – Office hours (9:30-3:30 pm), Choir Practice (7:00 pm)
- Dec. 22nd – St. Nicholas Brunch (following 10 am service), sign-up sheet is posted
- Dec. 23rd – Mahjong (1:00 pm), AA & Al-Anon (8:00 pm)
- Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Mass (5:00 pm)
- Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Mass (10:00 am)
- Dec. 29th – Live Nativity (10:00 am)

Per Diocese recommendations, St. Andrew's Office will be closed from Dec 23rd – Jan 2nd.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am

Suspended until Spring 2025

10:00 am

Choral

YouTube service and Sunday School are available
*Details can be found on our website or join our email
list for information direct to your inbox!*

Prayer for the Calling of a New Priest

Holy and gracious God, you have created us in your own image and have blessed us with many gifts for the benefit of all our brothers and sisters and for your glory.

Guide us as we search for a new priest, that we may use our gifts of patience, compassion, wisdom, and prayer to bring us to a place of peace and confidence in your plan.

We know that our new priest will come in your own time to shepherd us and grow with us as we continue our path of ministry in your name.

Grant us strength and increase our faith as we await the new shepherd of our flock.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

The Rev. Sharon Voelker
Interim Priest in Charge

Music Director/Organist: Sherri Brown
Elizabeth Heilig, Chancel Choir
Accompanist

Vestry

Senior Warden: Jack Chaney
Junior Warden: Greg Walter
Clerk: Joelle Chaney
Treasurer: Judy Rowcliffe

Gail Fleming, Emily Hack, Dani Hamm,
Pat Kent, Scott Slocum, Audrey Smith,
Carole Wollard