St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

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The Liturgical Seasons

of

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

The Episcopal Church



Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Whether this is your first time here or you are a long-time member, or somewhere in between, we are blessed to have you in worship with us today. St. Michael and All Angels church is a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Our liturgy (the structure of our worship) is taken from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. In this bulletin, all the people's responses are found in bold print. The Scripture readings for today are found on the bulletin insert. If you have any questions about worship, don't hesitate to ask a person sitting near you. We want you to feel at home and experience God's loving presence in our worship. On the insert, you will also find information about various events that you are invited to participate in at St. Michael and All Angels.

When the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, all who are baptized, regardless of age or denomination, are welcome to receive communion at the Lord's table. If you are not baptized or prefer not to receive, you may come forward for a blessing. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Please know that there is real wine in the cup; you do not have to receive both bread and wine in order to participate in communion.

We come seeking to become more and more followers of Jesus. We come seeking to be changed by our encounter with Jesus in Word and Sacrament—as we hear and respond to Scripture and gather around the Lord's Table. We have different backgrounds, different journeys, and stand in different places in life. We are young, old, and everything in between. But we see Christ in one another, and we walk together, praying for and encouraging each other.

We trust that God loves all creation. It was love that motivated God the Father to send his Son to live and die as one of us. It was God's love that Jesus offered His disciples to guide their lives and relationships. It was God's love that the saints proclaimed with their lives and their deaths, and that later Christian mystics found at the heart of everything. And it is love that motivates our worship, and sends us out into our city and our world as witnesses and workers.

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his (God's) kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

Songs of Praise

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

The Collect of the Day

Found on the Bulletin Insert

The First Reading

Found on the Bulletin Insert

After the Scripture reading
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Found on the Bulletin Insert

The Second Reading

Found on the Bulletin Insert

After the Scripture reading
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A Song in Response

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to____.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel Reading

Found on the Bulletin Insert

After the Gospel reading
Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

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 worshipped 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

Leader God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us. *Silence*

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Leader God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. Make us instruments of healing and peace. *Silence*

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Leader God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. May our steps be gentle and leave a small footprint on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations. *Silence*

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us hearts for the poor in our region. *Silence*

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear them in their affliction and save them from their troubles.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions followed by silence.

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises.

The congregation is invited to add their thanksgiving.

Leader We bless you, O Lord;
People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Celebrant Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

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

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Offertory

When the gifts are carried to the altar, we stand and sing 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 Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer C

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 (God) thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues
God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues
And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God

Communion Songs

Celebrant Let us pray.
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 Song, and Dismissal