

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

GATHERING HYMN

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he

came to Caesarea.

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

PSALM 22:25-31 (*Sung Responsively*)



²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Know That Christ is Raised

ELW 449

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially.... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

THANKSGIVING AND MEAL

We give in grateful response for all God's gifts; God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*We offer the convenience of **secure online giving** through **Tithe.ly**. Please see the back page for more information about online giving. Offering plates are currently located at each entrance/exit for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Take Me to the Water

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

OFFERING SONG

Be Not Afraid

ELW 388

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Sung responsively)*

*The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

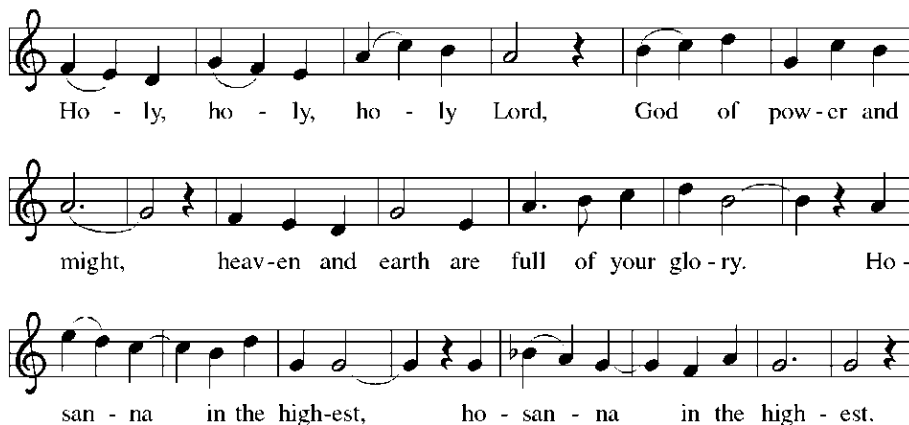
*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

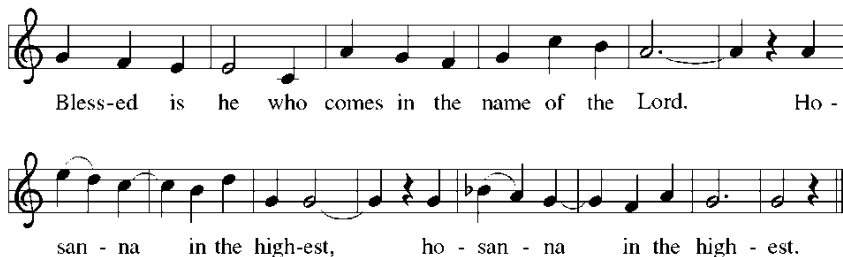
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

This is the day that you gave light to the earth. This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom. Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ:

Thanks be to God.

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth, you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace. The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit. Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior. Illumine our lives with your presence, and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race, for that light is Christ:

Thanks be to God.

All holy and mighty and glorious God, radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit, we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy, and we praise your victory through all

time and space, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Amen and amen. **Amen and amen.**

Saint Michael Lutheran Church 1852 Lord's Prayer

H.S. Hoy

This version of the 1852 Lord's Prayer will be sung by the congregation for the Easter season.

Copies of the original print are available in the narthex.

Our Fa-ther who art in Heav-en hal-low-ed be thy name, Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heav-en Give us day by day our dai-ly bread, give us day by day our dai-ly bread, give us day by day our dai-ly bread. And for-give our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. Lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil: For thine is the king-dom and the pow-er, and the glo-ry. For thine is the king-dom and the pow-er, and the glo-ry. A-men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Please Sit

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ, who confess their sins, and seek forgiveness. For those who are able, an usher will instruct the congregation when to come forward using the center aisle; please return to your pew using the side aisles. Wine, juice (white), and gluten-free wafers are available. Please alert an usher if you require assistance so communion can be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



COMMUNION MUSIC *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Linda Frick

Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton & Deborah Heinrich

Ushers: Harry Metz & Bill Colley

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God.

Altar Flowers on April 14th given in memory of Marguerite Mayer by Bill & Ann Smoak.

Altar Flowers on April 21st given in celebration of their 47th anniversary by Mike &

Joyce Burgess. Apologies for inadvertently leaving this information out of the bulletin.

APRIL COMMUNITY PROJECT is for Mission Lexington. There is a donation tub in the narthex for food pantry or accepted items for the Thrift Store. Please see the list!

TAKING RESERVATIONS! Fireflies May 15th game tickets are \$40 each plus a contribution towards the transportation expense. Please talk to Kris!

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL *4:55 pm Mon & Fri Update Calls from Pastor Frank!*

TODAY, April 28

Easter 5

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming

Tuesday, April 30

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, May 1

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Passion Narratives – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 2

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, May 3

10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Mid-Morning Meeting*) ChEd

Next Sunday, May 5

Easter 6

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

FOR FRIENDS--HOME, REHAB, SENIOR LIVING* AND/OR ILL

*Dot Black	-----	David Heinrich	Jane Potts
*Bob & Joyce Bowers	Kristin Belusko	Jill Lee	Melinda Sharpe
*Don Buff	Drew Colley	Mickey Lindler	Marla Smith
*Rose Colley	Donny Day	Crosby Livingston	JoAnn Smoak
*Helen Derrick	Jackie Dunning	Angie Matlosz	Richard Starnes
*Virgie Dreher	Danny Fulmer	Terry Matlosz	Marlene Stirewalt
*Barbara Fowler	Lisa Gillespie	Gary McManus	Bruce Whelchel
*Alma Paulson	Douglas Gourley	Bob Michelsen	
*Miriam Shealy	Joy Gunter	Harry O'Quinn	
*Tommae Sligh	Tim Hart	Brooke Pittman	

MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:

Tyler Alexander, USMC; Sherri Spangler's grandson
 Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana Riley's niece
 Zachary Davis, USN; Carolyn Cook's grandson
 Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda Frick's grandson
 Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla Maloney's son
 Griffin McLeod, SCNG-deployed; Mandy McLeod's son
 Brian Pipkin, SCNG; Louie & Imogene Conder's SIL
 Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter's SIL



SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome! Please ask an usher for a blue *Connections Card* and drop it in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave today, be sure to introduce yourself to the pastor. If you would like to learn about membership or have other questions, please call the church office. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Tithe.ly online giving available in the app store, www.tithe.ly/give, or direct via the ONLINE GIVING tab at www.stmichael1814.com. One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited immediately. Personal information is secure, and you

can change your giving profile at any time. Designations for memorial or special gifts are available on the drop down fund menu. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms located in both the Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but for those who desire it, a nursery is located in the Administrative Building. We stream via Facebook Live.

Large Print bulletins available from an usher.

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator