

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22nd, 2026

Order of Service

7:45 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
DSIII (pg.184)	Prayer & Preaching
Hymns	(pg.260)
915, 606, 430, 609, 423	Hymns 915, 606, 430
<u>Sermon</u>	
"The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly"	
Rev. Wes Gillaspie	

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14: The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son

of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

Romans 8:1-11: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the

dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Luke 7:36-50: When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is, that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore I tell you her many sins have been forgiven, as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who

even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Serving in Worship Today

Elders Charles Zwerk, Lucas Brown,
Kevin Kern; Rodney Hecht
Organist Heiki Palm
Choir K-1 Choir
Usher Mike Buchinger; Brian Knoll
Altar Guild Bev Bierlein; Linda Trombley
Acolytes Alexis Balcer; Brylee Bickel

Wednesday

Elder Ben Bekemeier
Pianist Pam Bernreuter
Usher Brian Knoll

This week at St. Michael's

Today Communion 7:45 a.m.
Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.
Worship Service (K-1) 10:30 a.m.
Passion Drama Rehearsal after late service
Mon School/ECC Open House 6-7:30 p.m.
Bd. Of Education 6 p.m.
Tue Adult Choir 7 p.m.
Wed Lenten Supper 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Service 7 p.m.
Sat. Passion Drama - Work in Shed
Next Sun. Palm Sunday
Communion 7:45 a.m.
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Communion 10:30 a.m.
Passion Drama Rehearsal after late service

Midweek Lenten Worship: For our final Wednesday night service we turn our attention to the sin of gluttony. In the Passion story it doesn't have anything to do with food. People can be gluttons in other ways. Hear this week's message at 7:00 Wednesday night.

Lenten Supper @ 5:30: The St. Michael's Early Child Care is hosting this week's Lenten Supper. Come and enjoy some sloppy joes, cheesy potatoes, veggies, and desserts. Donations will help support St. Michael's PS4's Scholarship Fund.

St. Michael's School and ECC will be having an Open House tomorrow from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for Preschool 4s and Kindergarten.

Cemetery Clean Up is March 28th. Please have all grave blankets and items picked up by then; anything left will be removed and discarded.

The Easter envelope this year will go to Home Purpose. Easter sunrise worship is at 6:30 and the late service is at 10:30. There will be no Kidzmin or Bible class on Easter.

Contribution Envelopes: It is time to order our paper contribution envelopes for 2027. Many of you are using online giving or other means for your contributions and the paper envelopes go unused. If you would like to be taken OFF the list to receive paper envelopes, please contact the church office (church@stmichaelsrichville.org) by March 30 (If you choose not to receive paper envelopes, you will still retain your envelope number. This way, any contribution via Kindrid or other check can still be tracked for year end statements. Cash donations, as always, will not be tracked and go into Home Purpose.)

Grant applications for St Michael's Endowment Non-Designated Fund are due March 30. Any questions, contact Pam Bierlein 989-971-3340.

THRIVENT MEMBERS: Your Thrivent Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2026! You may do so by: going online at thrivent.com/

thriventchoice OR calling (800) 847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Don't let your Thrivent Choice Dollars expire!

Mary Martha Rummage Sale: April 10th & 11th Collection will be April 6th; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & April 7th; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. (No collection on Wed.) Bring your donations to the Richville Legion Hall (items like: clothing, toys, sporting goods, furniture, decor., etc.) Contact Judy Janson (989)868-4294 with any questions.

Locking the doors: Sometimes on windy days the air pressure keeps the church doors from closing completely. If you are leaving the building, please give the doors a push to make sure the doors are closed and locked.

Sixteen tubs of silverware have been dropped off to be wrapped. If you would like to help, the tubs are located in the foyer to the right as you walk in. Feel free to take a tub or two to wrap. When you finish wrapping, please return them to the same area. The wrapped silverware is used for the Franklin Avenue Mission and for various events at St. Michael's. Thank you, Outreach

Did you know? The exterior materials of the building are earth-toned brick and deep-weathered-brown tile shingles, both in harmony with the fertile soil of Frankenhilf.

Attendance

Sun. March 15th 247
Wed. March 18th 140

Other News

The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Dime-Sized" *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler*; God doesn't look for valuable, desirable, beautiful

people so that He can love them. God loves first, and by loving them He makes people valuable, desirable, and beautiful. 1 Corinthians 13:11

Prayers

Health

Lucas Brown; Michelle DeCoe; Ben Dzioba; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht; Walt Hecht; Faith Heinlein; Ann Houser; Craig Keinath; Carolyn Navarre; Lorraine Nicodemus; Eugene Palmreuter; Roy Rodammer; Rollie Wenzel

Thanksgiving

Haven Grace Sahr; born March 17, 2026 (Parents: Madison & Matthew Sahr)

Mission

Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Puerto Rico. Both have served as missionaries in this region since 2008, in Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Prayer of the Day

"Almighty and eternal God, it was Your will that Your Son should bear the cross for us and destroy the power of the evil one. Help up to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive the forgiveness of sins and be redeemed from eternal death; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."

Passion Drama Schedule

·Today: Rehearsal after late service

·March 28th: Work in shed

·March 29th: Rehearsal after late service

·March 30th: Setup in church

·April 1st: Rehearsal (7 p.m.)

*·*April 3rd: 7 p.m. Performance*

*·*April 4th: 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Performances*

·April 5th: Easter

·April 6th: Tear Down (9 a.m.)

**Dinner will be served April 3rd 5 p.m.-7 p.m. and April 4th 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m.*

If you have any questions, please contact D.J. Weiss. (989) 529-7734 or st.michaelspassiondrama@gmail.com

