

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.
Our worship **begins** at the Prelude, as we hear God's word in music.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

All Creation Sings Setting 12

Please Stand if you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✙ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Listen, God is Calling

ELW 513

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The

joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

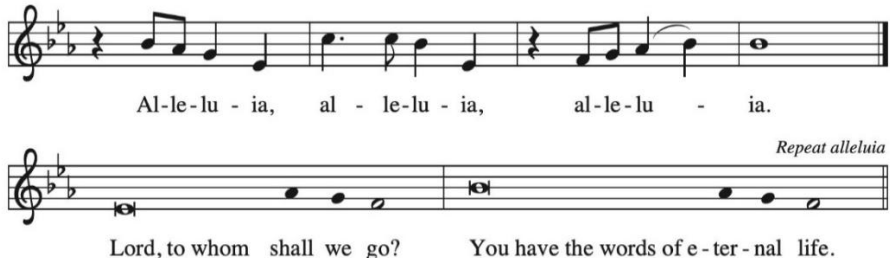
¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Please Stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand if you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me?

ELW 798

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick *especially....* We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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 **secure online giving** through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Please see the back page for more. Offering plates located at each entrance/exit. If you need an envelope or assistance, please ask an usher.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Can Hear My Savior Calling

Choir

Please Stand if you are able

OFFERING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302, vs. 4

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

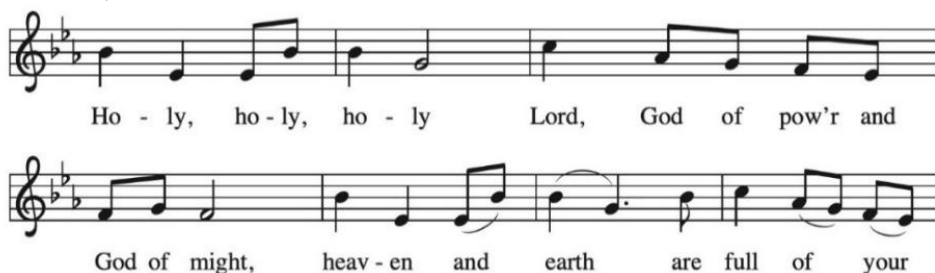
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

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.

With joy we tell our story:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love.

And so we pray and praise: Amen, amen. **Amen, amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

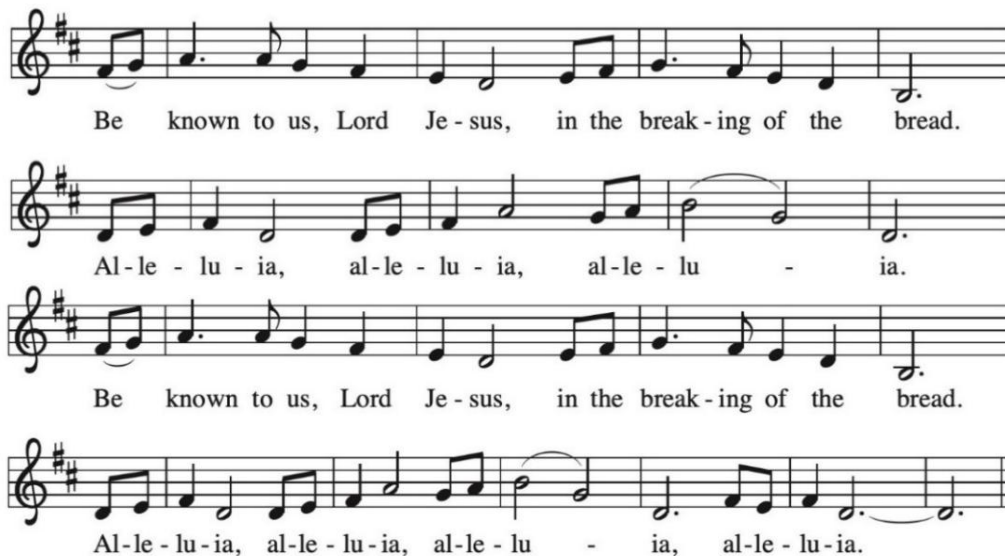
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
Come Follow Me the Savior Spake*

**ELW 582
ELW 799**

Please Stand if you are able

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

ELW 815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Harry Metz, Brian Kunar
Lector: Harry Metz
Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton, Kristi Kunar

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry Sr. & Janet Metz by Harry & Pam Metz.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH & charitable planning will be *Wednesday, January 28th*, 11:50 am at Tonella's (Food Lion Plaza—Hwy 6 & 76). Dutch treat. *All welcome.*

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL *Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm*

TODAY, January 25th

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday, January 27th

Wednesday, January 28th

Thursday, January 29th

Friday, January 30th

Saturday, January 31st

Next Sun, January 1st

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Epiphany 3

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

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

10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Red Letter Jesus—Fellowship Hall

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

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

9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal--Choir Room

Epiphany 4

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



Souper Bowl of Caring—following worship February 8th – Bring chili or soup to compete! If not competing, bread/rolls or dessert are welcome additions. “Vote” for your favorite with dollar bills or make a general donation for our local food banks.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/Ash Wednesday +++ February 17-18th

Lenten Wednesdays – SMLC/Dutch Fork Cluster begins February 25th



If you are missing your annual statement of giving, please talk to Kris or Judith.

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LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS: FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING

Ken & #Dot Black

**Don & Gwen Buff*

**Rose Colley*

#Barbara DeVore

#Virgie Dreher

**Barbara Fowler*

#Terry Matlosz

^Mitzi McTeer

**Alma Paulson*

Grady & #Melinda Sharpe

**Tommae Sligh*

Donny Day

Jackie Dunning

Lisa Gillespie

Douglas Gourley

Joy Gunter

Bo Harris

David Heinrich

Vicky Huggins

Alice King

Jill Lee

Patrick Lindler

Angie Matlosz

Gary McManus

Judith Nevergoll

Harry O’Quinn

Jane Potts

Marlene Stirewalt

Ed Thomas

Bruce Wheelchel

Dean Whitecotton

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-deployed; Carolyn Cook’s grandson

Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda Frick’s grandson

Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter’s son-in-law

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Tithe.ly online giving via the ONLINE GIVING tab at www.stmichael1814.com and available in the app store, www.tithe.ly/give. One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled. The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited immediately.



Restrooms located in both Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but a nursery is located in the Administrative Building, if needed. We stream via Facebook Live.

LARGE PRINT bulletins and **Children's** books & activities available from an usher.

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

Remember our homebound and senior living friends! Send a card, text, call or visit.

WiFi: StMichaels_Guest PW: Sundays!!