

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023

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

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled
to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare."
God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

ELW 873

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.**

LITANY

"The Light of God Has Come!"

[Christine Sine]

Come and see!

**The light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love;
It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

Come and follow!

Christ our companion has redeemed our world.

He draws us into a loving family from every tribe and family and culture.

Go and tell!

**The Spirit has equipped us for service to love our neighbours as we do ourselves,
To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life 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: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

PSALM 15 (Read Responsively)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**
³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of

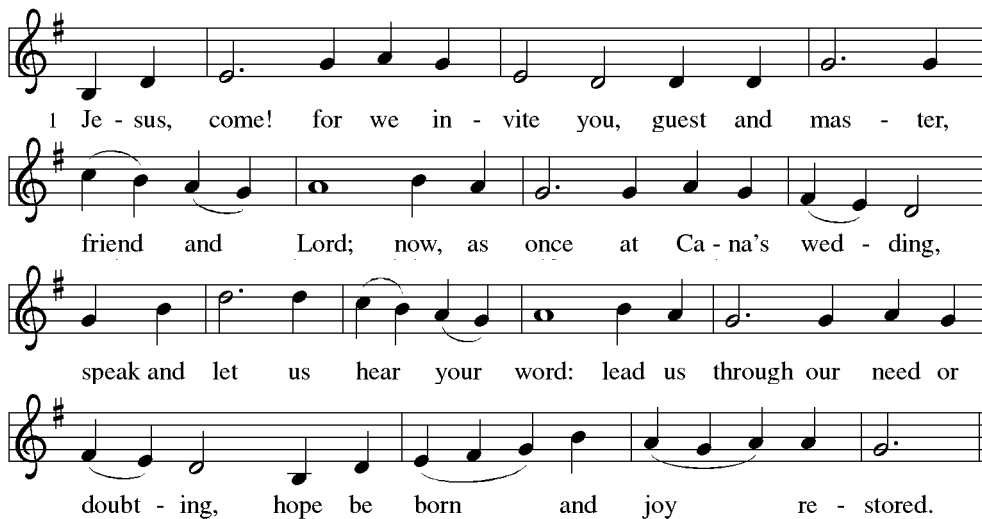
our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.


⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Please Sit

SERMON

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need especially.... Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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](https://www.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

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **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.**

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.

On 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.**

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

Come and taste the joy of God!

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.

Please Sit

COMMUNION SONGS

*In the Singing
O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

**ELW 466
ELW 818**

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Rita Anderson

Sacristans: Judith Nevergoll & Rita Anderson

Ushers: Harry Metz, Bill Colley

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of his mother Angela B. Harris by Bo Harris.

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

TODAY, Jan 29

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, Jan 31

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

Wednesday, Feb 1

~~10:00 a.m.~~ NO Bible Study—The Parables of Jesus

11:30 a.m. Ladies of Saint Michael Luncheon Meeting—

Fellowship Hall—soup provided, may bring sweet treat to share

Thursday, Feb 2

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

Next Sunday, Feb 5

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

11:30 a.m.

Congregation Meeting—see below

***SPECIAL NOTICE! CONGREGATION MEETING,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH!***

This meeting is to discuss and vote on a proposal to repair the bell tower.

You may also designate gifts to “building fund” to help offset costs.

See letter from Pastor Frank for details.



**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS
FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND* AND/OR ILL**

Bill Adams	*Pastor Henry Brandt	Jackie Dunning	Linda Miller
*John Martin Areheart	Don Buff	Lisa Gillespie	Susan Norcutt
Keith Berkeley	Joe Cooper	Douglas Gourley	Harry O'Quinn
Keith B. Berkeley	Donny Day	Jim Johnston	Jane Potts
Leslie Berkeley	*Helen Derrick	Jill Lee	*Billie Schnabel
*Dot Black	Barbara Devore	Mickey Lindler	Tommae Sligh
Ken Black	*Virgie Dreher	Terry Matlosz	Richard Starnes
Joyce Bowers	Allison Dugger	Gayle Michelsen	Ed Thomas

**FOR A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE
MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY**

Tyler Alexander, grandson of Sherri Spangler, USMC
 Samantha Davis, niece of Gene & Diana Riley, US Army
 Zachary Davis, grandson of Carolyn Cook, US Navy
 Grant Frick, grandson of Linda Frick, SC National Guard
 Victor Frick, grandson of Linda Frick, US Army
 Phil Lake, husband of Bridgett (Sloan) Lake, US Naval Reserve
 Collin Maloney, son of Mike & Karla Maloney, US Army OTS
 Griffin McLeod, son of Amanda McLeod, SC National Guard
 Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard
 Hunter Purvis, son-in-law of Jerry & Cheryl Baxter, US Army
 Colt Protheroe, nephew of Kate Brighton, US Navy



*Ladies of Saint Michael
Luncheon & Organizational Meeting*

*Wednesday, February 1st at 11:30 am
Fellowship Hall*

*Soup provided
Feel free to bring a sweet treat*

*All ladies invited to help plan events
And select chairpersons for 2023*

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 99church office. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Tithe.ly online giving available in the app store or www.tithe.ly/give. Set up a secure profile, search “St. Michael Lutheran” and click on our church. 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. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms are 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 with the worship service available via audio.

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

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* PW: *Sunday!!* + stmichael1814@gmail.com 803.781.0229