

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Second Sunday of Christmas*

**January 5, 2025**

*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*

### GATHERING HYMN

*Love Has Come*

**ELW 292**

### 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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**Grant us the grace to begin again.**

**Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,**

**through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

✙ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them

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

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in

heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

*Please Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scripture.*

## **GOSPEL: John 1:1--18**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one

has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

*Please Sit*

## MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The First Noel*

**ELW 300**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness especially. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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](https://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

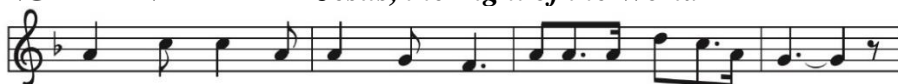
Piano Offertory

*Please Stand*

### OFFERING HYMN

### *Jesus, the Light of the World*

ACS 914



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life,

in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## 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.

**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

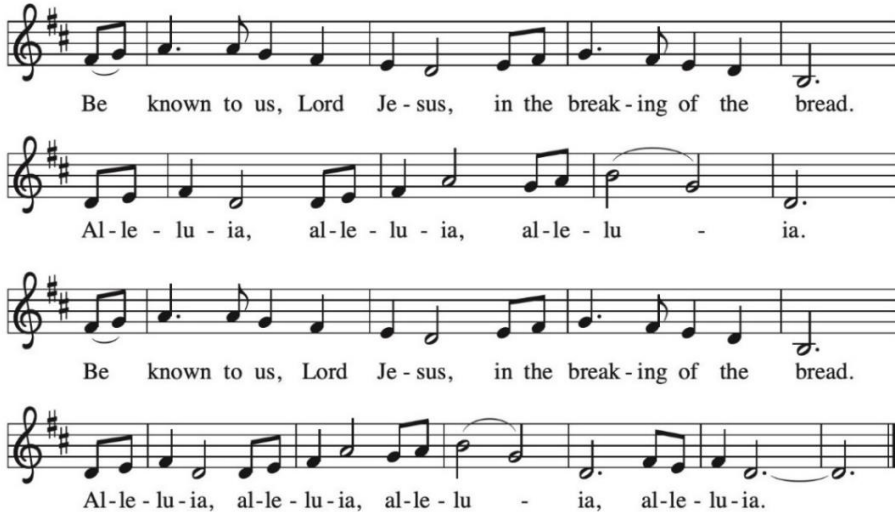
A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*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



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 HYMN**      *Word of God, Come Down to Earth*

**ELW 510**

## 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. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton & Karla Maloney  
Lector: Linda Frick  
Ushers: Harry Metz and Bill Colley

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

TODAY, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>                      *Second Sunday of Christmas*  
                    9:15 a.m.                      Sunday School—Fellowship Hall  
                    10:00 a.m.                      Choir Warmup—Choir Room  
                    **10:30 a.m.**                      ***Worship with Holy Communion***  
  
Tuesday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>                      12:00 p.m.                      AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH  
Wednesday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>                      10:00 a.m.                      Bible Study—Fellowship Hall, Pastoral Epistles  
Thursday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>                      12:00 p.m.                      AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH  
  
Next Sunday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>                      *Baptism of Our Lord*  
                    9:15 a.m.                      Sunday School—Fellowship Hall  
                    10:00 a.m.                      Choir Warmup—Choir Room  
                    **10:30 a.m.**                      ***Worship with Holy Communion***

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS:

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

*Dot Black	*Miriam Shealy	Alice King	Paul Nevergoll
*Bob Bowers	*Tommae Sligh	Jill Lee	Harry O’Quinn
*Don & Gwen Buff	-----	Mickey Lindler	Brooke Pittman
*Rose Colley	Kristin Belusko	Crosby Livingston	Jane Potts
*Helen Derrick	Donny Day	Sharon Lundy	Grady Sharpe
*Virgie Dreher	Lisa Gillespie	Angie Matlosz	Melinda Sharpe
*Barbara Fowler	Douglas Gourley	Terry Matlosz	Richard Starnes
*Bob Michelsen	Joy Gunter	Caroline McCauley	Marlene Stirewalt
*Alma Paulson	David Heinrich	Gary McManus	Bruce Whelchel

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

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri S’s g’son	Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla’s son
Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana’s niece	Griffin McLeod, SCNG; Mandy’s son
Zachary Davis, USN; Carolyn’s grandson	Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl’s SIL
Grant Frick, SCNG: Linda F’s grandson	

# 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** direct via the ONLINE GIVING tab at [www.stmichael1814.com](http://www.stmichael1814.com) and available in the app store, [www.tithe.ly/give](http://www.tithe.ly/give). 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 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*

**WiFi: StMichaels\_Guest    PW: Sunday!!**