

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Morning Prayer
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2020

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.
Please speak the responses **gently**. It is recommended that masks are worn during worship.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

O Lord, open my lips,

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

Alleluia.

GATHERING SONG

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632

Men, Leaders

1 ***O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:***

Women, Leaders

3 ***Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.***

Men, Leaders

4 ***A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.***

Women, Leaders

6 ***O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.***

Please Sit

WORD

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

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not

look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody

of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,

so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that

Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who

have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Pastor sings

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Please Sit

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

Men & Leaders

- 1 ***Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.***

Leaders Only

- 2 *The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.*

*The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.*

Women & Leaders

- 4 ***Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Heal those who are ill or suffer from disease, especially....Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel, especially.... Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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.**

Please Sit

THANKSGIVING

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.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Ever-living God, author of creation, we give you thanks for your gift of water that brings life and refreshes the earth. We bless and praise you, for by water and the Word we are cleansed from sin and receive everlasting life. Join us again this day to the saving death of Christ; renew in us the living fountain of your grace; and raise us with Christ Jesus to live in newness of life; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

BAPTISMAL SONG

Pastor sings

*I Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow. Number
them among your people; bless as Christ
blessed long ago. Weave them garments
bright and sparkling; compass them with
love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your
Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.*

All sing

*3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways! To your name
be glory, honor! With our lives we
worship, praise! We your people stand
before you, water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer, Recreate
us; God, transform!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Please Stand

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Men & Leaders

1 ***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his
blood.***

Refrain—All sing

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

Blessed Assurance

Leaders only

2 ***Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my
sight; angels descending bring from
above echoes of mercy, whispers of
love. Refrain***

Women & Leaders

3 ***Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking
above, filled with his goodness, lost
in his love. Refrain***

ELW 638

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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OPEN AIR HOLY COMMUNION: Anyone wishing to receive Holy Communion, please gather in the courtyard *after* worship for a brief spoken service. Please select your wine, juice, or gluten-free communion set from the table outside in the breezeway. In the event of inclement weather, please gather at the pastor's direction.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

LECTOR: Stephanie Martin

USHERS: Dean Whitecotton, Gerry Goegeline, Larry Slice, Bo Harris

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Clarence Faber by Myrna & Gerry Goegeline.



PLEASE ASK AN USHER if you need assistance or have a question before worship. Extra bulletins, offering envelopes, etc. are available if needed. They are not in the pews due to COVID.

HOME COMMUNION available through Pastor Frank or the office. Each cup is individually sealed and contains a wafer and juice or wine serving. We can put together several servings in a sealed plastic bag and deliver curbside if you call in advance!

HOLY COMMUNION takes place on the first Sunday of the month due to ongoing COVID precautions. You may select an individual, pre-filled wine, juice, or gluten-free wafer set at the entrance, which you may keep with you until communion. During Holy Communion, the pastor will direct the congregation to partake from the pews. Please remember to deposit empty cups, seals, and bulletins in the blue recycle bins as you exit.

A SPECIAL PIANO CONCERT FOR FOUR HANDS will be presented on Wednesday, November 11th at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. Cantor Malechi Doren and Jerry D. Olson, Jr. will be the featured performers with special guest artist, Hal McIntosh. Musical selections range from Mozart and Vivaldi to Jazz to John Phillip Sousa as well as some classic Hymns. The concert is free, but please reserve seating through the office so we may arrange physical distancing. For those who prefer, the concert will also be available online through our social media channels. Donations to the Music Fund are welcome.

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

Bill Adams
Roy Adams
Shirlene Adams
Dot Black
Gwen Buff
*Helen Derrick
*Virgie Dreher
June Fulmer
Gloria Helgeson



John Kreykenbohm
Jill Lee
Mickey Lindler
Caroline McCauley
Scott McCauley
Gayle Michelsen
Sandra Michelsen
Linda Miller
Susan Norcutt



*Billie Schnabel
*Olene Sons
Richard Starnes
Terry Stokes
Ed Thomas
Bruce William
David Wilson
Crystal Wood

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



Tyler Alexander, grandson of Sherri Spangler, USMC
Samantha Davis, niece of Gene & Diana Riley, US Army
Grant Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, SC National Guard
Victor Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, US Army
Phil Lake, husband of Bridgett (Sloan) Lake, US Naval Reserve
George McArthur, son of Judith Tolhurst, USMC In Japan
Griffin Meleod, son of Amanda Meleod, SC National Guard
Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard
William Woodruff, son of Jeff And Libby Woodruff, US Army



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 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 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 service available via audio.

Large Print and Kids Celebrate bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Malechi Doren, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

StMichael1814@gmail.com www.stmichael1814.com 803-781-0229 (office)

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* PW: *Sunday!!*