

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

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,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

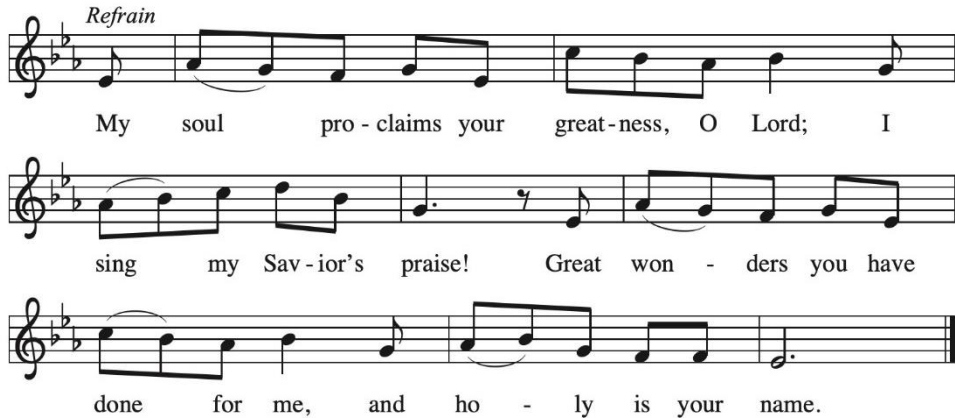
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✙ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Choir sings verses, congregation sings Refrain after v. 2,4,6*

Refrain



My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O Lord; I
sing my Sav - ior's praise! Great won - ders you have
done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please Sit.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

ELW 247, vs. 1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Let us pray. God our creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree, gift of the earth and sign of your evergreen presence. As we illumine this tree, let your blessing come upon us.

Send us your Son, the tender branch of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May we who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true Light that never fades. All glory be yours now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

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

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

ELW 436

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with

other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.
Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially.... In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Choir

OFFERING HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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. 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

We praise you, living and loving God, that you have sent your Son to this world. Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation, our Lawgiver, burning with justice, the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots, the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

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.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

We beg you, mighty and merciful God: send us the Spirit of your Son. Dwell in this food and in all who share it, that the earth may rejoice in your presence. In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world, reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples, and live among us, Emmanuel, our deepest desire now and forever.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

And let the people pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blest be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

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





COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

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. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

People Look East

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Sacristans: Kristi Kunar & Karla Maloney
Lector: Linda Frick
Ushers: Paul Nevergoll and Steve Evans

ALTAR FLOWERS given today to the glory of God by the Maloney family.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL 4:55 pm Mon & Fri Update Calls from Pastor Frank!

<u>TODAY, Sunday, Dec 1</u>	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
<i>Advent 1</i>	10:00 a.m.	Choir Warmup
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming</i>
<u>Tuesday, Dec 3</u>	12:00 p.m.	AA Meeting (<i>Back to Basics Group</i>) FH
	5:00 p.m.	Beer & Carols—Ugly Sweaters & fun!
<u>Wednesday, Dec 4</u>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study – Pastoral Epistles - Fellowship H.
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
<u>Thursday, Dec 5</u>	12:00 p.m.	AA Meeting (<i>Back to Basics Group</i>) FH
<u>Friday, Dec 6</u>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting (<i>Mid-Morning Meeting</i>) ChEd
<u>Saturday, Dec 7</u>	9-10 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	5:00 p.m.	Saint Nicholas Festival—Pilgrim Lutheran Church
<u>Next Sunday, Dec 8</u>	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
<i>Advent 2</i>	10:00 a.m.	Choir Warmup
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming</i>

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD—BEER & CAROLS! Join us as we kick off the festive season with ugly sweaters, carol singing, and commemorating the Repeal of Prohibition (aka Kris’s birthday) at Craft & Draft, Irmo. Brent Lundy will help lead us in carols beginning at 5 pm. This always ends up being lots of fun so don’t worry if you aren’t a singer. Come for the fellowship.



*Dot Black
*Bob Bowers
*Don & Gwen Buff
*Rose Colley
*Helen Derrick
*Virgie Dreher
*Barbara Fowler
*Alma Paulson
*Miriam Shealy

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

*Tommae Sligh	Jill Lee	Harry O’Quinn
*JoAnn Smoak	Mickey Lindler	Brooke Pittman
-----	Crosby Livingston	Jane Potts
Kristin Belusko	Sharon Lundy	Grady Sharpe
Carolyn Cook	Angie Matlosz	Melinda Sharpe
Donny Day	Terry Matlosz	Richard Starnes
Lisa Gillespie	Caroline McCauley	Marlene Stirewalt
Douglas Gourley	Gary McManus	Bruce Whelchel
Joy Gunter	Bob Michelsen	Sabrina Whitecotton
David Heinrich	Paul Nevergoll	
Alice King	Judy Olson	

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

Tyler Alexander, USMC; Sherri S's grandson
Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana's niece
Zachary Davis, USN; Carolyn's grandson
Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda F's grandson

Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla's son
Griffin McLeod, SCNG; Mandy's son
Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl's SIL

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 and available in the app store, 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 available from an usher.

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator