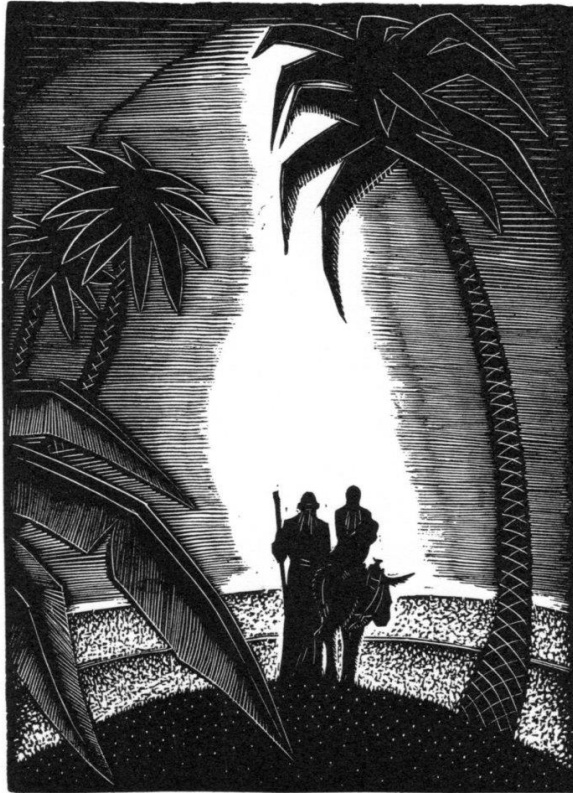


SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**. Please speak the responses **gently**. As a courtesy, it is asked that masks are worn while moving about. For those who are vaccinated, please sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary or the front pews on the lectern side. The rear lectern-side pews are for those who prefer or need to mask & physically distance.*

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 alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✙ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Come Now, O God

ACS 902

HOP for Advent- Leaders sing vs. 1; Congregation sings vs. 2&3

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for-sak - en.
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

Be praised, O God, for the blessings around us that point to you.

Be praised, O God, for the signs of this holy season that awaken in us wonder.

Praise for the steadfast green of this Chrismon tree, like your love, enduring all seasons.

Praise for the light that illumines our darkness, like Christ, who brings light to the world. Join our voices with those of the tree and of all creation, who sing at your coming: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Amen.

PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6 (Responsively)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

**⁵Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ELW 247

Come Now, O Prince of Peace, vs. 1,2&3

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung by Leader*

ACS 905 vs. 1

*We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus;
Jesus brings peace. Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.*

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

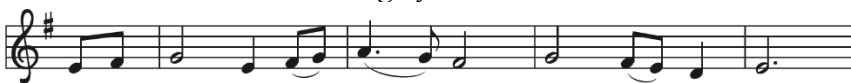
¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung by All*

ACS 905 vs. 2



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



Please Sit

SERMON

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

ELW 246

Congregation sings vs. 1&4; Leaders sing vs. 2&3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day especially.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

LITANY FOR PEACE

By Joe Wadsworth

Gracious God; timeless and Ageless God; you have commanded us to love our enemies. You yourself gave your life for those who were motivated by hatred.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....

You have watched humanity fight and scrap. You have watched with sadness as your creation is hoarded and divided for spoil under the guise of dominion. Help us seek your will in our lives. Make us your ambassadors as well as your disciples.

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven....

You sent your only Son so that your people; All your people, might truly know of your love and of your peace. That we might fully understand your AGAPE, your SHALOM. In a time of war, our hearts need your assurance and your presence confirmed. Our leaders need to sense your power is the strengths they employ.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...

It is so easy to reap a harvest of anger and revenge. Our hearts so easily fill with rage and discord. When war rages, sometimes our patriotism supersedes our mandate for peace and reconciliation. Forgive us our anger and grant us hearts of renewing peace. Help us be mirrors of your life even in times of discord.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

And so, Lord God of Creation, Savior of the World, we pray for a new chapter of peace to open. Before the momentum of hatred eclipses our strength to control it, grant us peace within. Create in us a clean heart and peaceful mind. This is the nature of your Kingdom; this is the basis of your power, and this is the joy of your Glory. Give us peace.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

People Look East

ELW 248

Leaders sings vs. 1&3; Congregation sings vs. 2&4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Musician: Harold “Hoss” Jefferies

Lector: Jerry Smith

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Bo Harris, Gerry Goegeline, Dean Whitecotton

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jackie Mitchum, Imogene's mother, and Skeek Conder, Louie's dad, by Louie & Imogene Conder.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, December 12 *Third Sunday of Advent*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. **Worship**—also stream

Tuesday, Dec 14 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Dec 15 10:00 a.m. Bible Study-studying II Kings

Thursday, Dec 16 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Next Sunday, Dec 19 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. **Worship**—also streaming

4:55 pm Monday and Friday Update Calls from Pastor Frank!

Safe Worship-We urge everyone to follow the CDC guidelines in terms of appropriate activities and precautions based on transmission levels and your status as a vaccinated or unvaccinated individual or household. **We strongly encourage you to wear masks when inside church buildings due to rising transmission levels in the Midlands.** Sanitizer & masks are available at the doors. The rear lectern-side pews remain reserved for those who prefer to **physically distance and wear masks.** We will leave offering plates at the doors.

Holy Communion: Holy Communion continues to be offered on the first Sunday each month from your pew. Quiet Communion following worship will be offered on remaining Sundays. We continue to use individual "pods" with wine, juice or gluten free (wine) options!

LADIES LUNCHEON & SOCIAL will be held on **Tuesday, December 21st** at Zorba's in the Seven Oaks Plaza at 12:30 pm. All ladies are invited to participate in lunch (dutch treat), fellowship, and a white elephant gift exchange (\$15 max). We will be in the back room. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Rita Anderson, 803.446.9947, if you need a ride or more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP begins at 7 pm. Mark your calendars! Please let your family members know that we are trying to protect all of our members and encourage everyone to wear masks as they move about. If you or your family prefers a reserved, masked & physical distanced pew, please contact the office so we can save the appropriate number of spaces.

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



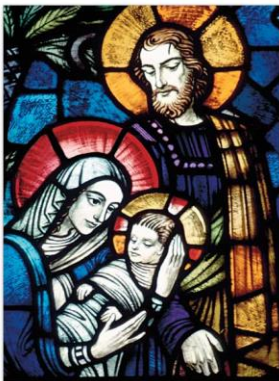
Roy Adams
John Martin Areheart
Leslie Berkley
Dot Black
Joyce Bowers
Don Buff
Jamie Coleman
Carolyn Cook
Donny Day
*Helen Derrick
*Virgie Dreher

Jackie Dunning
*Betty Flinsch
June Fulmer
Lisa Gillespie
Gayle Goodrich
Douglas Gourley
Bobbie Hartley
David Hermanson
Jeanette Jacobs
Jim Johnston
Susie Kerstad

Jill Lee
Mickey Lindler
Caroline McCauley
Linda Miller
Susan Norcutt
Jane Potts
*Billie Schnabel
*Olene Sons
Richard Starnes
Ed Thomas
Bruce William

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
Zachary Davis, grandson of Carolyn Cook, US Navy
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
Collin Maloney, son of Mike & Karla Maloney, US Army OTS
George McArthur, son of Judith Tolhurst, USMC in Japan
Griffin McLeod, son of Amanda McLeod, SC National Guard
Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard
William Woodruff, son of Jeff & Libby Woodruff, US Army



*Next Sunday includes the Blessing of the
Nativity Baby Jesus.*

***Bring your Baby Jesus to participate in this
beloved Saint Michael tradition.***

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 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 and **KID ACTIVITY PACKS** available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

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

stmichael1814@gmail.com

803.781.0229

www.stmichael1814.com