

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 22, 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

*Creator of the Stars*

Choir Men

*Please Stand*

#### GATHERING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**ELW 254**

### 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.**

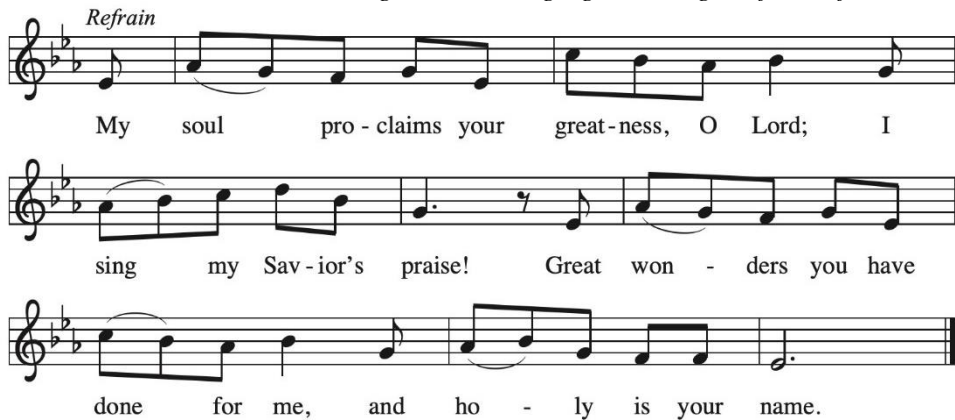
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✙ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### 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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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. 4**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,  
comes to be with us. Amen.**

## BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY AND CHRIST CHILD

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we look upon this manger scene. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share his love with all the world, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

# WORD

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

## **FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth, <sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

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

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

- <sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
- <sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),  
<sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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.

## GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; <sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

*Please Sit*

## MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

ELW 263

## 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 our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill especially.... Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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

***There's a Star in the East  
Hark Now, O Shepherds  
O How Beautiful the Sky***

Choir  
Women  
Women

*Please Stand*

## 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

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**     *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*     **ELW 257, vs 5-8**

## 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**     *Canticle of the Turning*     **ELW 723**

## DISMISSAL

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

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

Sacristans: Judith Nevergoll & Deborah Heinrich  
 Lector: Rita Anderson  
 Ushers: Paul Nevergoll and Steve Evans

**ALTAR FLOWERS** given today to the glory of God, in honor of Caroline's Christmas birthday and in loving memory of Scott by the McCauley Family.

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

TODAY, Sunday, Dec 22 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup  
*Advent 4* 10:30 a.m. **Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming**

Tuesday, Dec 24 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH  
 3:30 p.m. Concert with the Thomas Family  
 4:00 p.m. **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion**

Wednesday, Dec 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS—No activities**  
**OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 – JANUARY 1**

Thursday, Dec 26 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Dec 27 10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Mid-Morning Meeting*) ChEd

Next Sunday, Dec 29 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup  
*Lessons & Carols* 10:30 a.m. **Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming**

**Please join us Christmas Eve beginning at 3:30 pm for music from the Thomas family.  
 Candlelight Worship begins at 4:00 pm. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service.**

**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 grandson	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	

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# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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**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*