

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2022

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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: Isaiah 62:6-12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD, A City Not Forsaken.

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
“See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD“;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

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

SONG

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

PSALM 97 (*Read Responsively*)

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

²**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God’s throne.**

³Fire goes before the LORD,
burning up enemies on every side.

**⁴Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.

**⁶The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,
and all the peoples see your glory.**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

**⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil!

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the
wicked.**

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.

**¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

SONG

Away in a Manger

ELW 278

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

*God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously
cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not
because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on
us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we
might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is
revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.*

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Please Sit

SERMON

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled especially.... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **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://www.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

A Christmas Carol

Isaac Shevenell, soloist

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things. Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your Word, and your light shines in our darkness.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands.

The hills ring out with gladness, and the trees are shouting their joy.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

Your Son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a manger, Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

On the night before he died, 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.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son. Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life-giving Spirit.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the hosts of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God Most High, Light of the earth, and Judge of the world, today and forever.

Amen.

Amen.

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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.

Please Sit

COMMUNION SONGS

*Love Has Come
What Child Is This*

**ELW 292
ELW 296**

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Kate Brighton

Sacristans: Rita Anderson & Judith Nevergoll

Ushers: Bill Smoak, Rob Smoak, Mike Burgess

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today to the glory of God and in honor of Caroline McCauley's birthday by the McCauley family.

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED through Monday, January 2nd and will reopen on the 3rd. Kris will be checking messages and email while out of town. Pastor Frank will be available via phone or email for pastoral care and emergencies.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2023 are available in the narthex! Please pick your packet up today.



FLOWER CALENDAR for 2023 is in the flower book now! Please sign up for special dates as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

*Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm
Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd!*

TODAY, Dec 25th

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Christmas Day

NO Sunday School; NO Choir Rehearsal

Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, Dec 27th

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

Wednesday, Dec 28th

~~10:00 a.m.~~ NO Bible Study

Thursday, Dec 29th

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

Next Sunday, Jan 1st

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall; Choir Rehearsal—Choir Rm

Lessons & Carols



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 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!!* + stmichael1814@gmail.com 803.781.0229