

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 27, 2020

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

GATHERING CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

*1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

*3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain*

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the

firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

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

LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

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

CAROL

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

1 Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!

LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

² 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. ³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

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

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

*1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

CAROL***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*****ELW 272**

1 *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.*

2 *Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.*

LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

CAROL***Love Has Come*****ELW 292**

1 *Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

3 *Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

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

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.**

CAROL

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

1 *Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

2 *Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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

CAROL

What Child is This

ELW 296

*1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

LESSON: John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he

came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295

1 *Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.*

2 *Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.*

THANKSGIVING

We give in grateful response for all God's gifts; God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Please Stand

PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story. We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving. We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures. You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain

***Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!***

*1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,*

*behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain*

*3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Leaders: Malechi Doren, Paul Nevergoll, and Laura Thomas

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll (leader), Judith Nevergoll, Gerry Goegeline, Bo Harris

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rob’s Birthday and their 57th Wedding Anniversary by Bob and Sandra Michelsen.



END OF YEAR GIVING—Please be sure to have all 2020 contributions in today, Sunday, December 27th for the last deposit of the year! Annual contribution statements will be available before January 31st for tax purposes.

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.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, December 27

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School

Lessons and Carols



Tuesday, December 29

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, December 30

REMINDER--NO Bible Study—We’re back on the 6th!

Thursday, December 31

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*), FH

Next Sunday, January 3

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School

Worship with Holy Communion

OFFICE CLOSED ON JANUARY 1 & 4

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

Roy Adams

Dot Black

*Helen Derrick

*Virgie Dreher

Marcie Frick

June Fulmer

Whitney, Ron & Ari Goodson

John Kreykenbohm

Jill Lee



Mickey Lindler

Caroline McCauley

Scott McCauley

Gayle Michelsen

Sandra Michelsen

Linda Miller

Susan Norcutt

*Billie Schnabel

Larry Slice



*Olene Sons

Richard Starnes

Ed Thomas

Dean Whitecotton

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 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 And Libby Woodruff, US Army

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ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome! Please drop a connections card in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave today, be sure to sign our guest register and 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 is now available in the app store or www.tithe.ly/give. Set up a secure profile in just a few moments, search "St. Michael Lutheran" and click on our church. One-time or recurring gifts can be set up conveniently, eliminating the hassle of 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. Optional designations for memorial or special gifts are available. An instantaneous 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, childcare is provided in the Church nursery located in the Administrative Building.

Large Print bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Malechi Doren, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

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

WiFi: StMichaels_Guest PW: Sunday!!