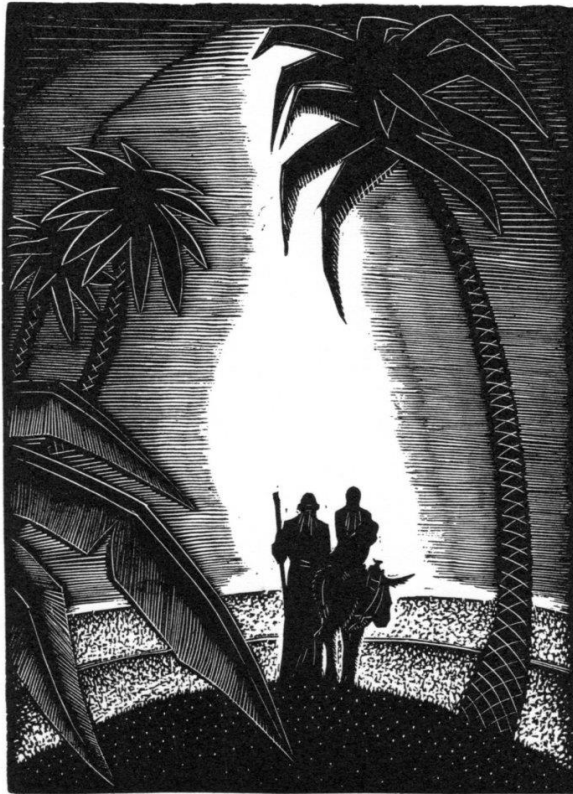


SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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.**

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.



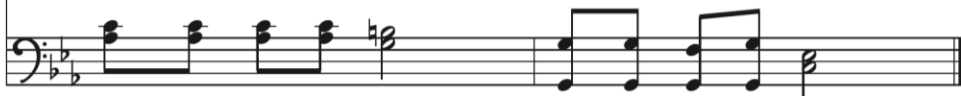
Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM: LUKE 1:68-79 (Responsively)

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, 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

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 3:1-6

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

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

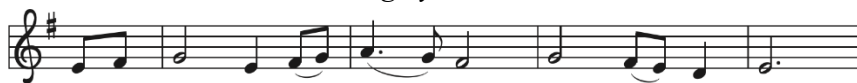
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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.



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



Lov-ing Šhep-herd, walk bê-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly ġuide us.



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

Please Sit

SERMON

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* ELW 249

Congregation sings vs. 1&5; 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.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill especially.... Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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 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

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.**

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.

COMMUNION

*The Pastor will instruct the congregation when to take communion from their pew. Wine, juice,
and gluten-free wafers are labeled and available at each entrance on the first Sunday each
month. Holy Communion is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ, who confess their sins, and
seek forgiveness. Please contact the pastor for home communion.*

COMMUNION SONG

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

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. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254

DISMISSAL

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

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Musician: Harold "Hoss" Jefferies
Lector: Linda May
Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Bo Harris, Gerry Goegeline, Dean Whitecotton

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Bruce & Connie Schuver.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, December 5 *Second Sunday of Advent*

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming
Council meets after worship.

Tuesday, Dec 7

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, (*Back to Basics Group*) FH
5-8 p.m. Beer & Carols—Tacky Sweaters! Craft & Draft

Wednesday, Dec 8

10:00 a.m. Bible Study—studying II Kings

Thursday, Dec 9

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

Next Sunday, Dec 12

Third 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!

SPECIAL TIME FOR BEER & CAROLS! Join us at Craft & Draft, Irmo **beginning at 5pm** on Tuesday, December 7th as we hope to draw in the families who attend dance and martial arts classes! Our “theme” is Tacky Sweaters with prizes for the tackiest, ugliest of sweaters as well as a special prize for the best Santa Beard! Treats for the kids (of all ages)! Singing encouraged but not mandatory!! Come enjoy the fellowship!

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!*

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



- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Roy Adams | *Virgie Dreher | Jill Lee |
| John Martin Areheart | Jackie Dunning | Mickey Lindler |
| Leslie Berkley | *Betty Flinsch | Caroline McCauley |
| Beth Berlin | June Fulmer | Linda Miller |
| Dot Black | Lisa Gillespie | Susan Norcutt |
| Joyce Bowers | Gayle Goodrich | Jane Potts |
| Don Buff | Douglas Gourley | *Billie Schnabel |
| Jamie Coleman | David Hermanson | *Olene Sons |
| Carolyn Cook | Jeanette Jacobs | Richard Starnes |
| Donny Day | Jim Johnston | Ed Thomas |
| *Helen Derrick | Susie Kerstad | 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



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

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