

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Second Sunday of Advent*

**December 7, 2025**

*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

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*Liturgy: All Creation Sings Setting Twelve*

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*Please Stand if you are able*

### 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, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*O Day of Peace*

ELW 711

### 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*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## ADVENT CANDLE SONG *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW 240, vs. 2

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

Let us pray. Holy God, we praise you as we light this tree. It gives light to this place as you shine light into darkness through Jesus, the light of the world. God of all, we thank you for your love, the love that has come to us in Jesus. Be with us now as we remember that gift of love and help us to share that love with a yearning world. Creator God, you made the stars in the heavens. Thank you for the light that shines on us in Jesus, the bright morning star.

**Amen.**

*Please Sit*

# WORD

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

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

## SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*Please Stand if you are able*

## 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: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume 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. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

*Please Sit*

## MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand if you are able*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptists Cry*

**ELW 249**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease *especially*.... Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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 **secure online giving** through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Please see the back page for more. Offering plates located at each entrance/exit. If you need an envelope or assistance, please ask an usher.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Blessed is the One*

Choir

*Please Stand if you are able*

### 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.



## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

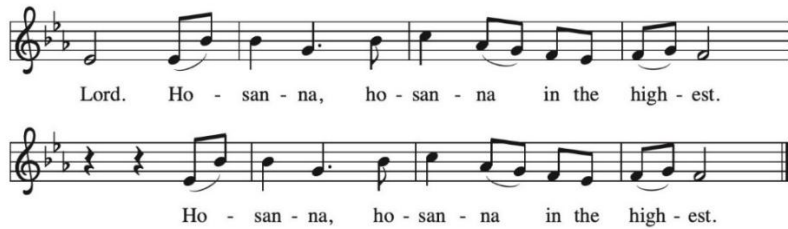
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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







## 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.**

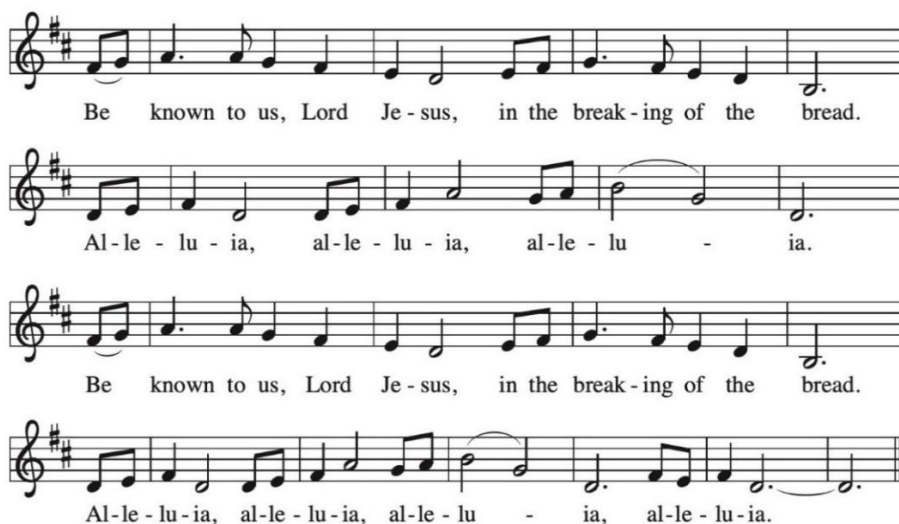
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*Please Sit*

## **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**

*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.*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

<i>He Came Down</i>	<b>ELW 253</b>
<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	<b>ELW 257, vs. 3-4</b>

*Please Stand if you are able*

## **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. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**ELW 264**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

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## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Bill Smoak, Mike Burgess  
Lector: Linda May  
Sacristans: Carolyn Cook, Deborah Heinrich



**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Saint Michael Lutheran Church Family by Bruce & Connie Schuver.

**THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL** *Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm*

**TODAY, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

***Advent 2***

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup **10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

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

**5:00 p.m. Council Dinner at Frank & Mary Anderson's Home**

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Red Letter Jesus—Fellowship Hall**

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal--Choir Room**

**3-5 p.m. Drop In at Pastor Frank & Mary's home—all welcome!**

**Next Sun, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

***Advent 3***

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup **10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

***Poinsettias** available for dedication and to grace our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Dedications in no later than **December 15<sup>th</sup>**, please. A donation of \$20 per plant is asked. Forms available in the narthex.*

***Christmas Eve + Special Music from the Thomas Family at 3:30 pm, Candlelight Worship at 4.***

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS: FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, \*SENIOR LIVING**

<i>Ken &amp; #Dot Black</i>	<i>Grady &amp; #Melinda</i>	<i>Joy Gunter</i>	<i>Gary McManus</i>
<i>*Don &amp; Gwen Buff</i>	<i>Sharpe</i>	<i>Bo Harris</i>	<i>Harry O'Quinn</i>
<i>*Rose Colley</i>	<i><u>*Tommae Sligh</u></i>	<i>David Heinrich</i>	<i>Brooke Pittman</i>
<i>*Helen Derrick</i>	<i>Dea Baughman</i>	<i>Vicky Huggins</i>	<i>Jane Potts</i>
<i>#Barbara DeVore</i>	<i>Donny Day</i>	<i>Jill Lee</i>	<i>Marlene Stirewalt</i>
<i>#Virgie Dreher</i>	<i>Jackie Dunning</i>	<i>Patrick Lindler</i>	<i>Ed Thomas</i>
<i>*Barbara Fowler</i>	<i>Lisa Gillespie</i>	<i>Angie Matlosz</i>	<i>Bruce Wheelchel</i>
<i>*Alma Paulson</i>	<i>Douglas Gourley</i>	<i>Terry Matlosz</i>	

**MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:**

Tyler Alexander, USMC; Sherri Spangler's grandson Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana Riley's niece Zachary Davis, USN-deployed; Carolyn Cook's grandson Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda Frick's grandson Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter's son-in-law

## SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**If you are a guest, welcome!** Ushers have *Connections Card* to drop it in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave, be sure to introduce yourself to the pastor. If you would like to learn about membership or have any 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. The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited immediately.

**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*

WiFi: StMichaels\_Guest PW: Sundays!! [stmichael1814@gmail.com](mailto:stmichael1814@gmail.com) 803.781.0229