

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Sixth Sunday After Epiphany*

**February 16, 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

*Please Stand*

#### GATHERING HYMN

*Jesus Shall Reign*

ELW 434

#### 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✙ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**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

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW 314

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our

nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please Sit*

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

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

## PSALM 1 (*Sung Responsively*)



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

*Please Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scripture. Alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

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

*Please Sit*

**MESSAGE**

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

**ELW 710**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way *especially*.... Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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.*

*Please Stand*

## OFFERING HYMN

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

ACS 914



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**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

Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

*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.*

With joy we tell our story:

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise:

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

**Amen, amen, amen, 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**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*Please Sit*

### **LAMB OF GOD**

*Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

### **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 HYMN**

*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

**ELW 717**

## 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. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*We Know that Christ is Raised*

**ELW 449**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

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## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Dean & Sabrina Whitecotton  
Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton & Deborah Heinrich  
Lector: Kate Brighton

**ALTAR FLOWERS** offered to the glory of God and in honor of their family, celebrating the birth of new grandson River, by Paul & Judith Nevergoll.

+ + + + +



**NEW BABY!** River Lee Nevergoll was born February 10<sup>th</sup> to Margaret & Alec Nevergoll at Parkridge weighing in at 9 lbs 6 oz. Big sister Norah and proud grandparents, Paul & Judith join in welcoming River to their family. Prayers and many blessings for River and family on this new journey.

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

TODAY, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>

9:15 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

**10:30 a.m.**

*Epiphany 6*

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Choir Warmup—Choir Room

**Worship with Holy Communion**

Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>

HOLIDAY-OFFICE CLOSED

2:00 p.m. *William Kirkley Funeral—Private*

Tuesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

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

**6:00 p.m. LMM Dinner Meeting—Fellowship Hall**

Wednesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. Bible Study—Hebrews, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>

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

Saturday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

Next Sun, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Epiphany 7*

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Choir Warmup—Choir Room

**10:30 a.m.**

**Worship with Holy Communion**



**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS:**

**FOR FRIENDS--HOME, REHAB, SENIOR LIVING\* AND/OR ILL**

\*Dot Black

\*Bob Bowers

\*Don & Gwen Buff

\*Rose Colley

\*Helen Derrick

\*Virgie Dreher

\*Barbara Fowler

\*Alma Paulson

\*Miriam Shealy

\*Tommae Sligh

-----

Pat Bartucca

Kristin Belusko

Donny Day

Danny Fulmer

Lisa Gillespie

Douglas Gourley

Joy Gunter

David Heinrich

Alice King

Jill Lee

Mickey Lindler

Angie Matlosz

Terry Matlosz

Caroline McCauley

Gary McManus

Harry O'Quinn

Brooke Pittman

Jane Potts

Diana Riley

Grady Sharpe

Melinda Sharpe

Richard Starnes

Marlene Stirewalt

Bruce Whelchel

**THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF JOSEPH MCLEOD (HENRY & GRIFF'S FATHER)**

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

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri S's g'son

Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana's niece

Zachary Davis, USN; Carolyn's grandson

Grant Frick, SCNG: Linda F's grandson

Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla's son

Griffin McLeod, SCNG; Mandy's son

Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl's

SIL



# 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** 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: Sunday!!*