

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

GATHERING HYMN

My Song is Love Unknown

ELW 343

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.**

LAMENTING THE DREAD OF MORTALITY

Gail Ramshaw

With Martha and Mary of old we cry out:

We grieve when our loved ones die.

Death attacks us; it shocks us all.

O God, where are you when death comes near?

We fear to die unprepared, and we dread the end of self.

KYRIE (*Sung responsively*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Hear us, O God: **Hear us, O God.**

Console us with your presence: **Console us with your presence.**

Give us your life: **Give us your life.**

A time of silence is kept.

Hear these words, and receive their power:

God the Father formed us as creatures who live and love and die.

God the Son lived a human life and joined us in death.

God the Spirit holds us in the eternal body of Christ.

Thanks be to God: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 51:1-12 (*Sung Responsively*)`



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

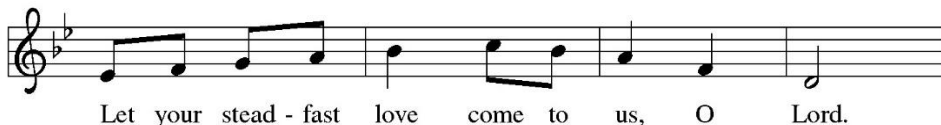
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the

judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill especially.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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**. 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

Down at the Cross

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

OFFERING SONG

Now Is the Time of Grace

ACS 918

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music. The first measure is marked with a '1' above it and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The second measure is marked with a '2' above it and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Below the first staff, the lyrics are: "Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion." The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains two measures of music. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The second measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Below the second staff, the lyrics are: "Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion."

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Sung responsively)*

*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...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God, Creator of our wilderness world, O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering, we give you thanks for your everlasting
might; we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.

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.

We extol his life. Amen: **Amen.**

We lament his death. Amen: **Amen.**

We celebrate his resurrection. Amen: **Amen.**

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.

Save us, O God: **Save us, O God.**

Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.

Save us, O God: **Save us, O God.**

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

Save us, O God: **Save us, O God.**

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

Save us, O God: **Save us, O God.**

At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now 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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!


Please Sit

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Please Stand

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. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

ELW 545

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006042. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 2012 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

++++++

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Bo Harris

Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton & Deborah Heinrich

Ushers: Bill Smoak & Mike Burgess

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL *4:55 pm Mon & Fri Update Calls from Pastor Frank!*

TODAY, March 17

Lent 5

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming

Tuesday, March 19

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

6:00 p.m.

LMM Dinner Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 20

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Passion Narratives – Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m.

Soup Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Lenten Worship

6:00 p.m.

Dutch Fork Cluster Meal at Bethel, White Rock—All Welcome

7:00 p.m.

DFC Worship at Bethel, White Rock—Pastor James Henricks, Preacher

7:45 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 21

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Next Sunday, March 24

Passion Sunday

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming—Gather on Plaza

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, www.tithe.ly/give, or direct via the ONLINE GIVING tab at www.stmichael1814.com. 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 on the drop down fund menu. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

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 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

Stmichael1814@gmail.com

803.781.0229

www.stmichael1814.com