

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.
Please speak the responses **gently**. It is recommended that masks are worn during worship.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one
who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.

**Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

- 1 *Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.*
- 2 ***In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again; laid in the earth like grain that***

sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 4 *When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again like wheat arising green.*

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

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against 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.

⁶Indeed, 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 purer than snow.

⁸Let 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.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful 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 Pastor sings

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.*

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Pastor sings

*Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.*

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song is Love Unknown

ELW 343

- 1 *My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?*
- 2 ***He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own***

- would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!*
- 6 *Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

THANKSGIVING

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

Please Stand

LITANY FOR LENT

Let us live this Lenten season with the cross before us.

Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In times of prosperity,
when success and comfort would draw us away from the way of the cross,

Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In darker times of trial and worry
when we feel alone, abandoned to wander in the valley of the shadow,

Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

In the routine of each day, in the work we do, in our lives with family and friends,
in the light of each day, and in the rest of each night,

Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!

Heavenly Father,
as a family of believers in this congregation, we pray that all we do together
be governed by your love for us in Christ.

Keep his cross before us, so that we are always ready and eager to follow him!

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.**

**trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our trespasses, as we forgive those who**

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

1 *Oh, that the Lord would guide my
ways to keep his statutes still!*

*let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.*

*Oh, that my God would grant me
grace to know and do his will!*

4 *Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.*

2 *Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

INTERIM MUSICIAN: Harold Jefferies

LECTOR: Linda May

USHERS: Paul Nevergoll, Gerry Goegeline, and Judith Nevergoll



PLEASE ASK AN USHER if you need assistance or have a question before worship. Extra bulletins, offering envelopes, etc. are available if needed. They are not in the pews due to COVID.

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. The pastor will direct the congregation when to partake from the pews or at home.

- **QUIET COMMUNION** takes place *immediately following* worship in the transept on all other Sundays for those who wish to stay. You may also stay in your pew. Please remember to maintain physical distance. The trays will be in the front pew. Pastor Frank will direct us when to partake.
- We will continue streaming so those at home can join us.
- Please remember to deposit empty cups, seals, and bulletins in the blue recycle bins as you exit.
- **HOME COMMUNION** available through Pastor Frank or the office. We can put several servings in a sealed bag and deliver curbside if you call in advance!

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, March 21

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday School—FH

Worship—Also Streaming Online

Tuesday, March 23

12:00 noon

AA Meeting—FH

Wednesday, March 24

10:00 a.m.

12:00 Noon

Bible Study—FH *studying Books of Samuel*

Online Lenten Worship—Also available afterwards

Thursday, March 25

12:00 noon AA Meeting—FH

Next Sunday, March 28

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Sunday School—FH

Worship—Also Streaming Online

SPECIAL LIVESTREAM MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES—Our final *Making Change* livestream will be at NOON on WEDNESDAY.



Week 5: Change of Plans

God's ways are not our own. We expect a conquering king and hero, but Jesus instead leads us down the road to Jerusalem and humbles himself on the cross. God changes our plans and replaces them with a love broader and deeper than anything we could imagine.

EASTER LILIES—If you would like to purchase a lily for Easter, please complete a form in the narthex and submit \$15 per plant. Dedication forms must be received no later than Palm Sunday. You can use the offering plates, or contact the office by phone or email for assistance. Thanks so much!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE—Palm Sunday is March 28th. Services for Maundy Thursday, with Holy Communion, and Good Friday will be held at Noon and 7 pm. The Noon service will be livestreamed on Facebook and then available for any who cannot attend in person.

EASTER SCHEDULE—We will be offering our outdoor, weather permitting, Sunrise Service at 7am followed by coffee, donuts, and breakfast pastries that can be enjoyed outside for fellowship and conversation.

We will be offering **TWO Easter** services with Holy Communion at 9 am and 10:30 am. These services will require advance reservations similar to Christmas Eve. This is to accommodate all who want to celebrate with extended family. ***Reservations will be required.*** Sign up in the narthex or contact the office, please!

Please note that the Congregation Council approved the continuation of our COVID protocols through next month. We continue to monitor DHEC and CDC recommendations and will evaluate our guidelines on a month-to-month basis. Let's keep doing our part; getting our vaccines, masking in public and large group settings, physically distancing from those not in our households, and washing hands frequently. We're all in this together! Please contact the office, Pastor Frank, or a Congregation Council member if you have any questions.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND* OR ILL

Roy Adams
Dot Black
*Helen Derrick
*Virgie Dreher
Betty Flinsch
Diane Foster
Marcie Frick
Ted Frick
June Fulmer



Lisa Gillespie
Jeanette Jacobs
Jill Lee
Mickey Lindler
Caroline McCauley
Scott McCauley
Linda Miller
Susan Norcutt
Ann Parris



Jane Potts
*Billie Schnabel
*Olene Sons
Richard Starnes
Ed Thomas
Dean Whitecotton
Bruce William
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



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 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 service available via audio.

Large Print bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

StMichael1814@gmail.com www.stmichael1814.com 803-781-0229 (office)

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* PW: *Sunday!!*