

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday of the Passion

March 29, 2026

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

The congregation gathers on the plaza in front of the church. Those unable to participate may take their place in the Sanctuary.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

All Glory Laud and Honor (full intro)

ELW 344

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

The congregation processes into the sanctuary.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, 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: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above

every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Due to the length of the reading, the congregation may remain seated.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

THE PASSION: Matthew 26:14—27:66

The Passion according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

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

Silence for reflection

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day *especially*.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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.*

ANTHEM

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

Choir

Please Stand if you are able

OFFERING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803, vs. 4

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

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.

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

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

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. Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance. Teach us your words of wisdom and justice. Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace. 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.**

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,

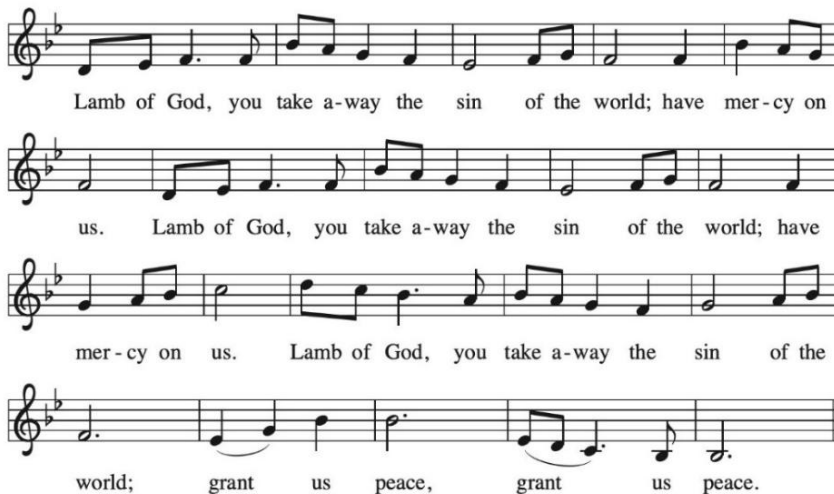
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Please Sit

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

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

Were You There?
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 353
ELW 338

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 of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Steve Evans

Lector: Harry Metz

Sacristans: Judith Nevergoll, Karla Maloney

If you plan to bring a breakfast casserole, sweet rolls, donuts, fruit or biscuits for our Easter Breakfast, please sign up in the narthex or let Rita, Kris, or Sabrina know by April 2nd. Thanks.



*Congratulations to our newlyweds!
 Grant & Raeven Frick and Tyler & Anna
 Goegeline celebrated their vows yesterday.
 Prayers and best wishes to both couples on a
 long and happy marriage. Joyful blessings
 to the parents & families, in particular the proud
 Grandparents, Linda (Ted) Frick and Gerry & Myrna
 Goegeline. What wonderful examples of wedded bliss.
 Look for pictures in the newsletter.*



THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL *Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm*
TODAY, March 29th

Sunday of the Passion—Meet on the Plaza, if able
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, March 30th

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

Wednesday, April 1st

10:00 a.m. NO Bible Study—Red Letter Jesus—Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Egg Hunt Prep—Fellowship Hall—Help Needed!

Maundy Thurs, April 2nd

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH
12:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd

10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (Morning Group) ChEd
12:00 p.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Saturday, April 4th

9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal--Choir Room
11 a.m.-1p.m. EGGstravaganza Egg Hunt—Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, April 5th

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship in East Parking Lot
 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 9:15 a.m. NO Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. Choir Warmup
 10:00 a.m. Special Music--sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion

Egg Hunt Help Needed Wednesday, April 1st at 10:30 a.m.

We are in need of volunteers and donations for our Egg Hunt.

Any donations of cash, candy, snacks, and juice pouches are welcomed. Help us spread the word, too!

Individually wrapped food items are best. Any homemade goodies should steer clear of nuts and peanut butter please.

**community
easter
egg
hunt**



April 4th

11 am until 1 pm

Thank you so much!

Family Fun!

- Activities, Crafts, & Games
- Church History Tours
- Easter Egg Hunt
—You may want to bring a Basket!
- Selfie Station
- Bring-Your-Own Picnic Lunch
- Refreshments Provided

**\$1 Inside Special Eggs!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Hosted at:

Saint Michael Lutheran Church
400 River Road, Columbia 29212

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

*Ken & #Dot Black
*Don & Gwen Buff
*Rose Colley
#Barbara DeVore
#Virgie Dreher
*Barbara Fowler
#Terry Matlosz*

**Alma Paulson
Grady & #Melinda Sharpe
*Tommae Sligh
Kate Brighton
Charlie (8yo, leukemia)
Donny Day
Lisa Gillespie
Douglas Gourley*

*Joy Gunter
Bo Harris
David Heinrich
Vicky Huggins
Jill Lee
Patrick Lindler
Angie Matlosz*

*Gary McManus
Harry O'Quinn
Jane Potts
Marlene Stirewalt
Ed Thomas
Bruce Wheelchel
Dean Whitecotton*

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
Liam Maloney, SCNG; Mike & Karla Maloney's son
Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter's son-in-law*



Palm Sunday, March 29

Gather on Plaza if able

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Noon & 6 pm

(with Holy Communion)

Good Friday, April 3

Noon & 6 pm



Saturday April 4

11 am—1 pm

EGGstravaganza



Easter Sunday, April 5

***The Resurrection of
Our Lord***

7 am Sunrise

(East Parking Lot)

7:30 am Breakfast

10:30 am Worship



*EASTER LILIES WILL BE GRACING THE CHANCEL FOR OUR
EASTER WORSHIP. ALL WHO DONATED A PLANT ARE
WELCOME TO TAKE THEIR PLANT(S) HOME FOLLOWING THE
10:30 SERVICE. AS YOU WILL NOTICE AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL, THEY WILL COME BACK IF PLANTED!*



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 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 via the ONLINE GIVING tab at www.stmichael1814.com and available in the app store, 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 Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but a nursery is located in the Administrative Building, if needed. We stream via Facebook Live.

LARGE PRINT bulletins, **Children's** books & activities available from an usher.

WiFi: StMichaels_Guest PW: Sundays!!



SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator