

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Third Sunday in Lent*

**March 8, 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*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

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#### *All Creation Sings Setting 12*

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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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water

Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **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.**

**KYRIE**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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: Exodus 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

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

## **SECOND READING: Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

*Please Stand if you are able*

## 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.

## GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

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

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW 611

## 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, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need *especially*.... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Send Me, Lord*

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.**

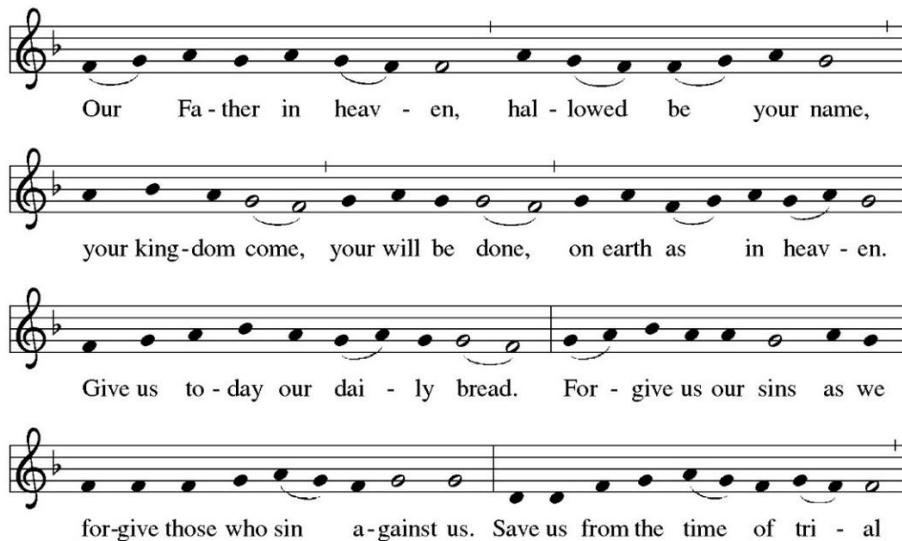
We lament his death. Amen: **Amen.**

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

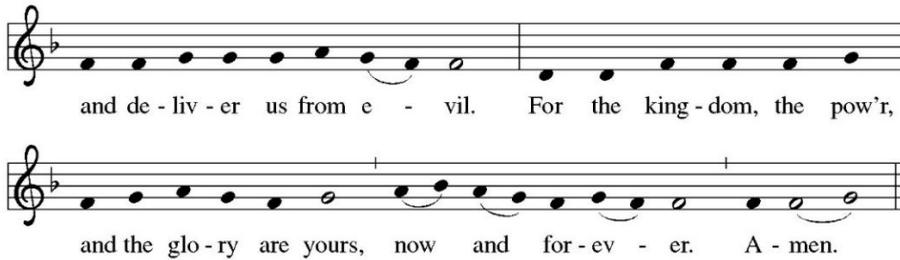
Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit. Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son. Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance. Teach us your words of wisdom and justice. Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace. At the last, lead all your pilgrim people 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



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## 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

*Come to the Table*  
*I Come with Joy*

**ELW 481**  
**ELW 482**

*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

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

**ELW 618**

## 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: Kate Brighton

Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton, Karla Maloney

## LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

**Bible Study 10 am + Soup 11:30 am + Worship @ NOON**

**Dutch Fork Cluster**

**Supper 6 pm + Worship 7 pm**

**March 11 St. Michael**

**March 18 Mt. Hermon-Peak**

**March 25 St. John's-Irmo**

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

**TODAY, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

**Third Sunday in Lent**

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

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

**6:00 p.m. Council Meeting—Fellowship Hall**

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

11:35 a.m. Soup **12:00 p.m. Midweek Worship**

**Host-Saint Michael**

6:00 p.m. Dinner **7:00 p.m. DF Cluster Worship-Saint Michael**

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

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

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

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

**Next Sun, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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

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

*Ken & #Dot Black*

*\*Alma Paulson*

Joy Gunter

Gary McManus

*\*Don & Gwen Buff*

*Grady & #Melinda Sharpe*

Bo Harris

Judith Nevergoll

*\*Rose Colley*

*\*Tommae Sligh*

David Heinrich

Harry O'Quinn

*#Barbara DeVore*

Charlie (8yo, leukemia)

Vicky Huggins

Jane Potts

*#Virgie Dreher*

Donny Day

Alice King

Marlene Stirewalt

*\*Barbara Fowler*

Jackie Dunning

Jill Lee

Ed Thomas

*#Terry Matlosz*

Lisa Gillespie

Patrick Lindler

Bruce Wheelchel

*^Mitzi McTeer*

Douglas Gourley

Angie Matlosz

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

Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter's son-in-law



**We Host the DF Cluster Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm Supper Menu: Lasagna & Spaghetti casserole**

**Fruit, Salad, Dessert & Bread**

*If you can help, please touch base with Rita or Sabrina!*





## HOLY WEEK

### **Passion Sunday**

*Reading of the Passion of Christ*

10:30 am

*Meet on plaza if able*

### **Maundy Thursday**

12 Noon & 6 pm

### **Good Friday**

12 Noon & 6 pm

### **Holy Saturday**

Easter Egg Hunt

11 am—1 pm

### **Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunrise

7 am

Easter Breakfast

7:30 am

Easter Worship

With Holy Communion

10:30 am

***All are welcome!***

**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*

***Remember our homebound and senior living friends! Send a card, text, call or visit.***

# 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](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 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.

WiFi: StMichaels\_Guest    PW: Sundays!!