

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!* **ELW 369**

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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father 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: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

PSALM 23 (Sung Responsively)

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

**³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.**

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

**⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.**

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

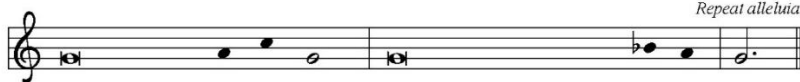
²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW 502

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring

for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. We pray especially for....God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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](https://www.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

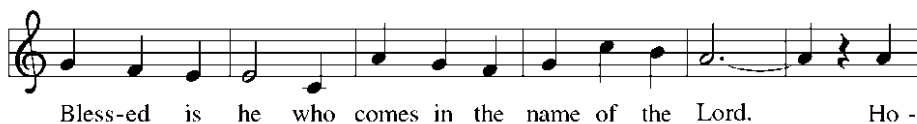
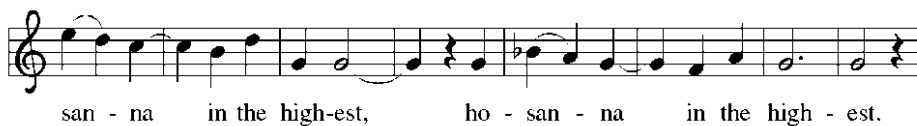
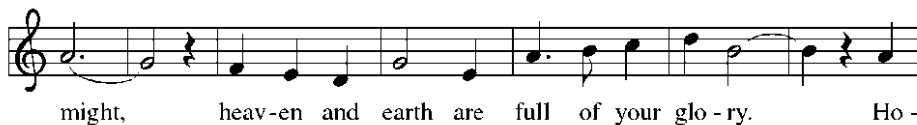
Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

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****THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

This is the day that you gave light to the earth. This is the day that you saved the

Israelites through the sea and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom. Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ:

Thanks be to God.

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth, you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace. The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit. Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior. Illumine our lives with your presence, and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race, for that light is Christ:

Thanks be to God.

All holy and mighty and glorious God, radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit, we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy, and we praise your victory through all time and space, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Amen and amen. **Amen and amen.**

Saint Michael Lutheran Church 1852 Lord's Prayer

H.S. Hoy

This version of the 1852 Lord's Prayer will be sung by the congregation for the Easter season.

Copies of the original print are available in the narthex.

Our Fa-ther who art in Heav-en hal-low-ed be thy name, Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heav-en Give us day by day our dai-ly bread, give us day by day our dai-ly bread, give us day by day our dai-ly bread. And for-give our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. Lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil: For thine is the king-dom and the pow-er, and the glo-ry. For thine is the king-dom and the pow-er, and the glo-ry. A-men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

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

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

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. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with

your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Rita Anderson
Sacristans: Rita Anderson & Judith Nevergoll
Ushers: Harry Metz & Bill Colley

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APRIL COMMUNITY PROJECT is for Mission Lexington. There is a donation tub in the narthex for food pantry or accepted items for the Thrift Store. Please see the list!

TAKING RESERVATIONS! Fireflies May 15th game tickets are \$40 each plus a contribution towards the transportation expense. Please talk to Kris!

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

TODAY, April 21

Easter 3

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Passion Narratives – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25

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

Friday, April 26

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

Next Sunday, April 28

Easter 5

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

*Dot Black	-----	David Heinrich	Jane Potts
*Bob & Joyce Bowers	Kristin Belusko	Jill Lee	Melinda Sharpe
*Don Buff	Drew Colley	Mickey Lindler	Marla Smith
*Rose Colley	Donny Day	Crosby Livingston	JoAnn Smoak
*Helen Derrick	Jackie Dunning	Angie Matlosz	Richard Starnes
*Virgie Dreher	Danny Fulmer	Terry Matlosz	Marlene Stirewalt
*Barbara Fowler	Lisa Gillespie	Gary McManus	Bruce Whelchel
*Alma Paulson	Douglas Gourley	Bob Michelsen	
*Miriam Shealy	Joy Gunter	Harry O'Quinn	
*Tommae Sligh	Tim Hart	Brooke Pittman	

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; Carolyn Cook's grandson
Grant Frick, SCNG: Linda Frick's grandson
Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla Maloney's son
Griffin McLeod, SCNG-deployed; Mandy McLeod's son
Brian Pipkin, SCNG: Louie & Imogene Conder's SIL
Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter'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 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