

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 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

Please Stand if you are able

GATHERING SONG

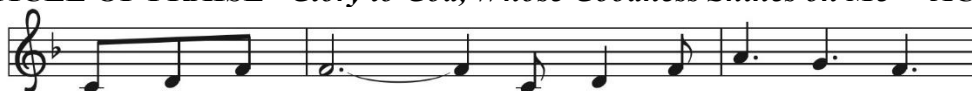
*How Great Thou Art**

ELW 856

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* **ACS 1087**



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

PSALM 119:129-136 Read Responsively

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-29

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Please Stand if you are able

Refrain

We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are
 giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er
 joined, the great-est and the least, we all are
 one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Gather Us In

ELW 532

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples’ stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. *We pray especially for . . .* God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community’s part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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** on our website 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 door for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Seek Ye First

Ensemble

Please Stand

OFFERING SONG

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

ELW 691

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ 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.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD

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 SONGS *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love**
Be Thou My Vision

ELW 708
ELW 793

Please Stand if you are able

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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**Denotes Choir Boys Favorite Song*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: The Smoaks

Lector: Harry Metz

Sacristans: Carolyn Cook, Pam Metz

THE ALTAR FLOWER calendar has many openings in August and September! Please take a look in the narthex and take a date if you can. Thanks in advance.

Did you notice that our exterior preservation project is done? Lexan protecting the stained glass to be updated soon.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL 4:55 pm M/F Update Calls from Pastor Frank!

<u>TODAY, Sunday, July 26th</u>	<i>Pentecost 9</i>
9:15 a.m. Sunday School	<i>10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion.</i>
<u>Tuesday, July 28th</u>	12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (<i>Back to Basics Group</i>) Fellowship Hall
<u>Wednesday, July 29th</u>	<i>10:00 a.m. Savvy Seniors! Jefferson and Burr; Town Theatre</i>
<u>Thursday, July 30th</u>	12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (<i>Back to Basics Group</i>) FH
<u>Friday, July 31st</u>	10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (<i>Mid Morning Group</i>) ChEd
<u>Next Sunday, Aug 2nd</u>	<i>Pentecost 10</i>
9:15 a.m. Sunday School	<i>10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</i>



LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS
FOR FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING AND/OR ILL

#Ken & Dot Black	Marie Derrick	Angie Matlosz
*Don & Gwen Buff	Lisa Gillespie	Deacon McManus
#Barbara DeVore	Douglas Gourley	Gary McManus
#Virgie Dreher	Joy Gunter	Harry O’Quinn
*Barbara Fowler	Susan Herndon	Jane Potts
#Terry Matlosz	Vicky Huggins	Marlene Stirewalt
*Alma Paulson	Jill Lee	Ed Thomas
*Tommae Sligh	Patrick Lindler	Bruce Whelchel
	^Julie Goegeline Lucas	Dean Whitecotton

MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri Spangler’s grandson
Samantha Davis, USA-Europe; Gene & Diana Riley’s niece
Zachary Davis, USN-deployed; Carolyn Cook’s grandson
Grant Frick, SCNG-deployed; Linda Frick’s grandson
Liam Maloney, SCNG; Mike & Karla Maloney’s son



SAVVY SENIORS! Join us Wednesday, July 29th for more fun and fellowship and our last gathering. The last entry on Burr and Jefferson's Western Expansion Plans is on deck as well as information on Town Theater.

We are ending our summer collection for SGL's Pantry soon—any non-perishable items are appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help and support of those in our communities with food insecurity.



We're donating school supplies once again to the Lutheran Services Carolinas local program that benefits foster care and new refugee students. Backpacks, notebooks, notepaper, pens, pencils, art supplies and other school items are needed—those sales are coming up so please take advantage and help students in need too.



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 or

www.stmichael1814.com/online-giving.

One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, secure, and funds are deposited immediately. Designations

for memorials 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 worship service available via Facebook Live.

Large Print and Kids Celebrate 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!!*