

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 17, 2025

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS+

TFF 148



1 Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! since I laid my
2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I laid my
3 Feel like shout - ing, "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I laid my

bur - den down. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -
bur - den down. I feel bet - ter, so much
bur - den down. Feel like shout - ing. "Hal - le -

lu - jah! since I laid my bur - den down.
bet - ter, since I laid my bur - den down.
lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - den down.

Let us pray. We come before you with heavy hearts, burdened by our sin. We confess that we have been trying to carry this alone, and realize that we cannot. We choose to lay our burdens down at your feet, trusting in your infinite wisdom and love. Fill us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us release this worry and find rest in your presence. Guide me, Lord, and show me the path forward. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

PSALM 82 (Read Responsively)

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’ ”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION+ *Lead Me, Guide Me* (Refrain Only)

ELW 768

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.

⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

ACS 1084



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be - hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es - en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound *especially....* Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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://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

Please Stand

OFFERING HYMN+

We Plow the Fields and Scatter, vs. 1

ELW 680

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

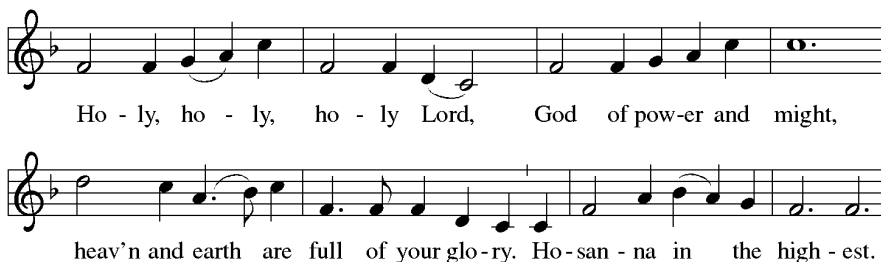
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

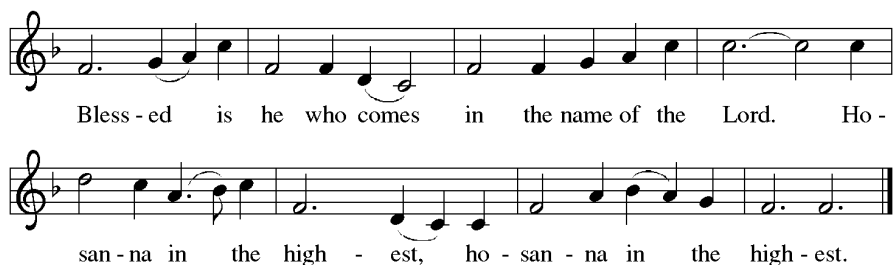
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, God Most High!

We give thanks for your holy covenant, your promise to Abraham, your mercy to the house of David, your word spoken through the prophets, and your beloved Son, the dawn of our salvation.

We praise and magnify you, O God! **We praise and magnify you, O God!**

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ, forgiving Savior, merciful Lord.

We trust in your tender compassion. You are the good Samaritan, we the wounded traveler. You are the sweeping woman, we the lost coin. You ate with Mary, Martha, and Zacchaeus, and you filled Emmaus with your resurrection.

We praise and magnify you, O God! **We praise and magnify you, O God!**

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.

For this meal and for your presence within it, we sing:

We praise and magnify you, O God! **We praise and magnify you, O God!**

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, Power of the Most High. As you came to Mary, come to us and to this meal. Welcome us home, that together we may feast on your love.

Feed us with the body of Christ, that we may be holy and righteous before you.

Heal us, that with Dorcas we may rise to serve those in need. Send us into all the world, preaching the power of your peace.

We praise and magnify you, O God! **We praise and magnify you, O God!**

Blessed are you, Mighty One, Father, Son, and Spirit, Shepherd of forgiveness, Author of life, Light in our darkness. We join with the multitude of angels to praise and magnify

your name, singing, Glory to God in the highest heaven, today, tomorrow, 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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Please Sit

WELCOME TABLE+

TFF 263



1 I'm a-goin'-a cat at the wel-come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . and hon - ey,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on . . . milk and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross . . Jor-dan's riv - er, some of these days.

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

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
Come, Let Us Eat*

ELW 767
ELW 491

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. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

ELW 774

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Steve Evans

Lector: Carolyn Cook

Sacristans: Carolyn Cook, Karla Mloney

*+ indicates a musical selection to be sung throughout the Summer * indicates a Choir Boys Favorite*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 67th Wedding Anniversary (August 15th) by Don & Gwen Buff.

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

TODAY, August 17th

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Pentecost 9

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, August 19th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

6:00 p.m.

LMM Dinner Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 20th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study—Proverbs, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 21st

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, August 22nd

10:00 a.m.

AA Meeting (Morning Group) ChEd

Next Sun, August 24th

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Pentecost 11

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Worship with Holy Communion

- **HVAC units in--waiting for clear day to install. Contributions towards this expenditure are very much appreciated. Please indicate "HVAC" or "property" on your check or envelope.**



SUMMER FOOD DRIVE continues through August. Our local food banks need PB & J, mac & cheese, pasta, sauce, soup, canned tomatoes or fruit—there is a large donation box in the Narthex or you can help through the offering plate. Please note—food bank. Thank you for your generosity.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS:

FOR FRIENDS—#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING AND/OR ILL

Ken & #Dot Black

*Tommae Sligh

Vicky Huggins

*Don & Gwen Buff

Jill Lee

*Rose Colley

Dea Baughman

Angie Matlosz

*Helen Derrick

Kristin Belusko

Terry Matlosz

#Barbara DeVore

Cathy C.

Linda May

#Virgie Dreher

Donny Day

Gary McManus

*Barbara Fowler

Lisa Gillespie

Austin Moore

*Alma Paulson

Douglas Gourley

Judy Olson

Grady & #Melinda Sharpe

Joy Gunter

Harry O'Quinn

#Miriam Shealy

Bo Harris

Brooke Pittman

#Larry Slice

David Heinrich

Jack Poole



Jane Potts

Reggie Price

Marlene Stirewalt

Bruce Whelchel

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

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

2-17 Air Combat Squadron-deployed

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 direct 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 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 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

WiFi: StMichaels_Guest PW: Sunday!!