

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

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

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* v.1&4 **ELW 834**

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!	4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render; oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!
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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.**


HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. ☐ Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

① Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of

all cre - a - tion: ② Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and

might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men

③ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

① For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -

② gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

③ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM 103:8-13

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, We Have Wandered v.1&2

ELW 606

1	Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.	2	And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Provide nourishment, strength and healing to those who are ill and struggling with debilitating disease. Today, we pray especially for those on our prayer list...Bring wisdom and guidance to those serving in our armed forces, especially...

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our 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

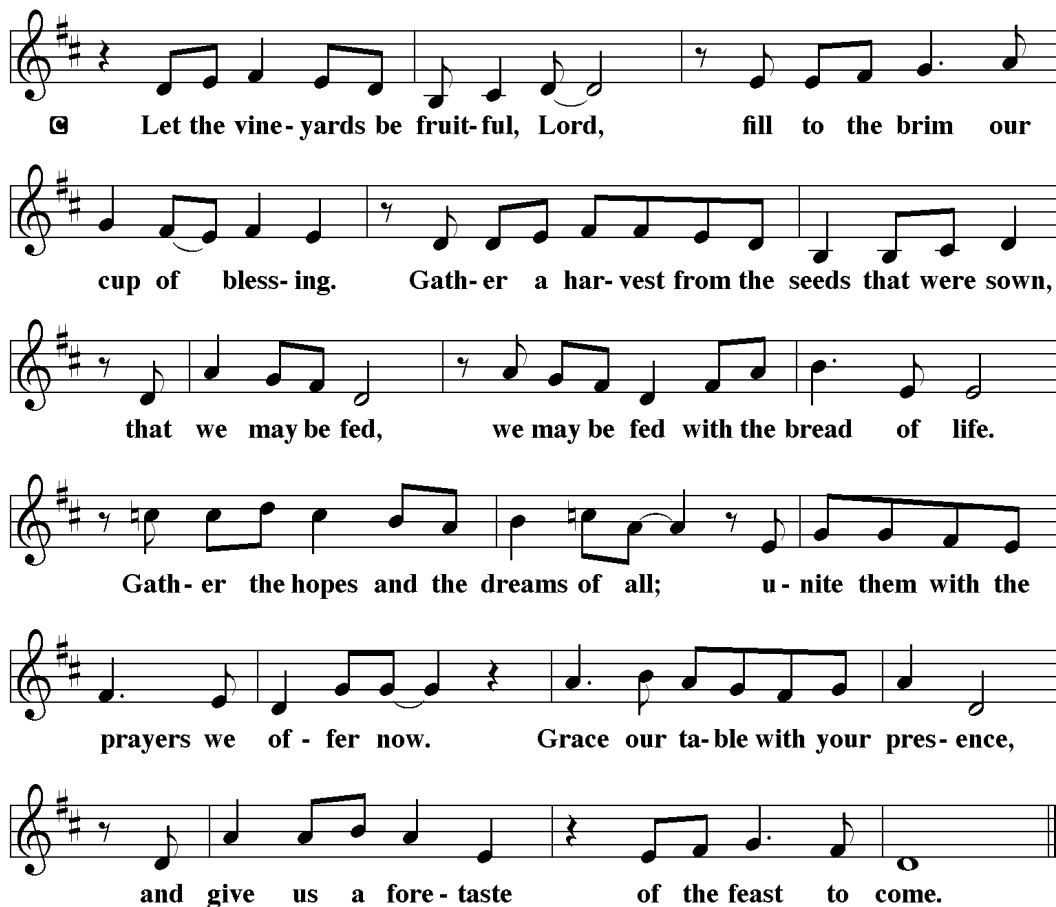
OFFERING

*We offer the convenience of **secure online giving** through Tithe.ly. Download the free app, and search for St. Michael Lutheran to make a one-time or recurring gift.*

Please see the back page for more information about online giving. Feel free to place a yellow online giving card in the offering plate.

Please Stand

OFFERTORY OR SPECIAL MUSIC



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

**Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. **☑** And al - so 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.

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:



☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever. **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.**

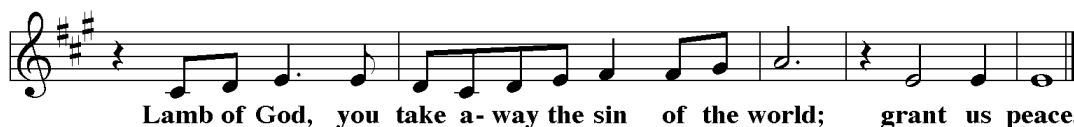
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please Sit

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ, who confess their sins, and seek forgiveness. The Pastor will commune those with mobility concerns first. All others come forward in the transept to receive. Wine, white grape juice, and gluten-free wafers available.

LAMB OF GOD *Any worship assistants or guests should move forward near the rail, maintaining a social distance of six feet, to receive communion via minimal contact.*



Please Stand

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 together...

**We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say. | 3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you! |
| 2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart? | 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our
souls and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace. |

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

LECTOR: Rita Anderson

STREAMING AVAILABLE! We continue to offer Sunday Worship online via YouTube, Facebook, and our website at 10:30 am. Please check our social media, website or recent email communications for links and more information or call the office. We plan to resume “live”streaming when sanctuary worship returns Sunday, October 4th.

HOME COMMUNION available through Pastor Frank or the office. Each cup is individually sealed and contains a wafer and juice serving. We can put together several servings in a sealed plastic bag and deliver curbside if you call in advance!



THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, September 13

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion—Streaming Online

Tuesday, September 8

12:00 noon AA Meetings Resume—FH

Wednesday, September 9

10:00 a.m. Bible Study Resumes—FH

Thursday, September 10

12:00 noon AA Meeting—FH

Next Sunday, September 13

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.


2:30 p.m.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday School Resumes—Chr Ed/FH

Worship with Holy Communion—Streaming Online

AA Meeting—FH



ALTHOUGH WE ARE GRADUALLY RETURNING TO ACTIVITIES AT SAINT MICHAEL, PLEASE DO NOT FEEL PRESSURED OR EXPECTED TO ATTEND. IF IT IS IN YOUR BEST JUDGEMENT TO REFRAIN FROM GROUP INTERACTION AT THIS TIME, WE UNDERSTAND. WE KNOW EACH HOME SITUATION AND HEALTH RISKS ARE DIFFERENT.

WE WANT EVERYONE TO STAY HEALTHY, HAPPY AND LOVED.

*IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING TO ASSIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE!
803.781.0229 OR STMICHAEL1814@GMAIL.COM*

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS
FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND* OR ILL**

Roy Adams
Dot Black
Gwen Buff
*Helen Derrick
*Virgie Dreher
Elaine
Clarence Faber
June Fulmer
Maisy Goegeline
Helen
Gloria Helgeson
Joseph

John Kreykenbohm
Jill Lee
Mickey Lindler
Scott McCauley
Gayle Michelsen
Sandra Michelsen
Linda Miller
Nan
Susan Norcutt
Erna Prawdzik
Phyllis Ruttonsha



*Billie Schnabel
*Olene Sons
Richard Starnes
Terry Stokes
Ed Thomas
Brady Waites
Bruce William
David Wilson
Crystal Wood

**FOR A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE
MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:**



Tyler Alexander, grandson of Sherri Spangler, USMC
Samantha Davis, niece of Gene & Diana Riley, US Army
Grant Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, SC National Guard
Victor Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, US Army
Phil Lake, husband of Bridgett (Sloan) Lake, US Naval Reserve
George McArthur, son of Judith Tolhurst, USMC In Japan
Griffin Mcleod, son of Amanda Mcleod, SC National Guard
Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard
William Woodruff, son of Jeff And Libby Woodruff, US Army

A prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.

— *From Sundays and Seasons*

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome! Please drop a blue Connections Card 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 is now available in the app store or www.tithe.ly/give. Set up a secure profile in just a few moments, search "St. Michael Lutheran" and click on our church. One-time or recurring gifts can be set up conveniently, 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. 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.

Large Print and **Kids Celebrate** bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Malechi Doren, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

StMichael1814@gmail.com www.stmichael1814.com 803-781-0229 (office)

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* **PW:** *Sunday!!*