

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 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 *Gracious Spirit, Hear Our Pleading* **ELW 401**

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 *Pastor Sings Verses, Congregation Sings Refrain* **ELW pg 184**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: **Jonah 3:10-4:11**

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

PSALM 145:1-8 Sung Responsively



¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Please Stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

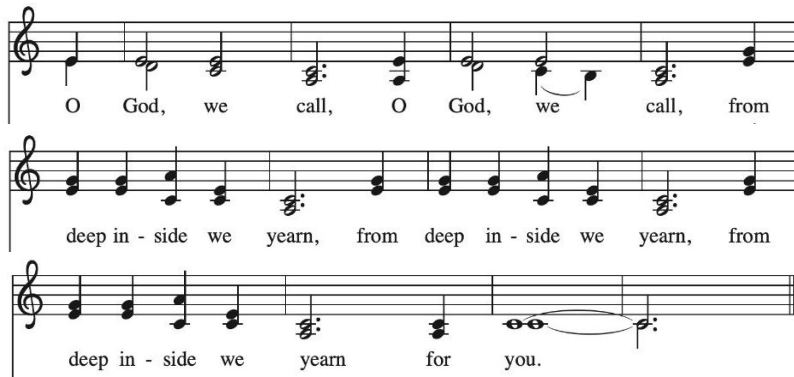


Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

Pentecost 17 + September 20, 2026

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Response sung to ACS 1075 (below); words in bold italic*
Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.



Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

***O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.***

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need *especially*.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

**O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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

I Must Tell Jesus

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING SONG

God Bless Us to Our Bread

ACS 1056



Ben - di - ce, Se-ñor, nues-tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are



ham - bre y ham-bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are



pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg 190

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

PRAYER V, pg 65

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg 191

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

*In the Singing
As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 466
ELW 465

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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: The Metz's

Lector: Rita Anderson

Sacristans: Kristi Kunar, Rita Anderson

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God.

THANK YOU! We want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for our daughter, Julie, during her serious illness. She is now home, receiving physical therapy weekly, and doing much better. We are grateful to our wonderful church family for your support for us and Julie. Myrna and Gerry

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

TODAY, Sunday, Sept 20th **Pentecost 17**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion.

4:00 p.m. *Wine & Whimsy—All welcome—Men can watch football with Bob!—details on pg. 11*

Tuesday, Sept 22nd 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Sept 23rd 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Exodus -- Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Sept 24th 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Sept 25th 10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Mid Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, Sept 26th 9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

Next Sunday, Sept 27th **Pentecost 18**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

#Ken & Dot Black

*Don & Gwen Buff

#Bill Colley

#Barbara DeVore

*Virgie Dreher

*Barbara Fowler

#Terry Matlosz

*Alma Paulson

*Tommae Sligh

#Ed Thomas

Marie Derrick

Lisa Gillespie

Douglas Gourley

Joy Gunter

Susan Herndon

Vicky Huggins

Jill Lee

Patrick Lindler

#Julie Goegeline Lucas

Angie Matlosz

Deacon McManus

Gary McManus

Harry O'Quinn

Jane Potts

Marlene Stirewalt

Bruce Whelchel

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



ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS!!

Ladies Wine & Whimsy—TODAY at 4 pm

Home of Rita & Bob Anderson (310 Windward Pt. Rd.)

Men are welcome to join Bob for football

Bring Wine & a Food Pantry Donation (cash or nonperishables)

September-October

Lutheran Disaster Relief-monetary donations

Transitions-Cold Weather Clothing

- Outerwear-gently used or new*
- New underwear-(NO socks needed)*



**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH + 4 PM
FRONT PLAZA**

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!!