

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 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

God is Here!

ELW 526

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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

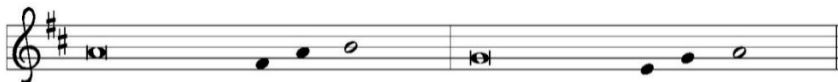
Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM 25:1-9 Sung Responsively



⁹ You lead the low-ly in justice
and teach the low-ly your way.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Please Stand if you are able

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

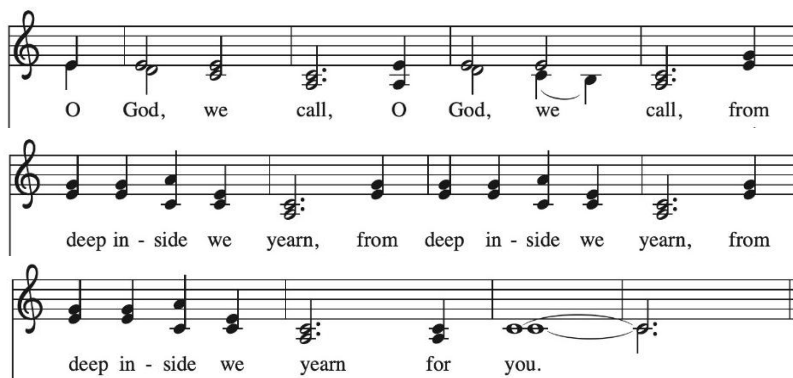
Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

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.



Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. 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.***

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need *especially....* Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. 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.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. 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://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

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

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



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 *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am* *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

ELW 814
ACS 954



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



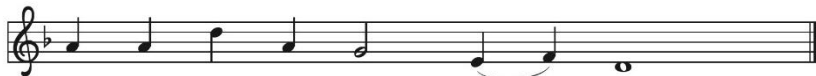
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

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

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538

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: Harry Metz

Sacristans: Carolyn Cook, Pam Metz

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph Smoak Sr. by JoAnn Smoak.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
TODAY + 4 PM + FRONT PLAZA

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

TODAY, Sunday, Sept 27th *Pentecost 18*

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. Blessing of the Animals—Front Plaza—Pupcups & treats available!

Tuesday, Sept 29th 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Sept 30th 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Exodus -- Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Oct 1st 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Oct 2nd 10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Mid Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, Oct 3rd 9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

Next Sunday, Oct 4th *Pentecost 19*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

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

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



Ladies Fall Projects

***Monetary Donations for
Lutheran Disaster Response***



***Gently Used or New
Outerwear, New Underwear
for Transitions***

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!!