

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.”³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.”³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.



³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.”³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM

WOV Setting Six

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ. *Our 11:00 worship service this morning is streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.*

DIGITAL SIGN IN

You are welcome to sign in with our digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or the iPad in the Narthex.



Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)
601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247
office@stmlutheran.org www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24280
and streamed by permission under OneLicense.net #A-711336.*

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Allen Carr, saxophone

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity. † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN : "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" ELW 452

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height. | one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all. |
| 2 | To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace. | 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave. |
| 3 | There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call, | 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life. |

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984. Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

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 "Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved" ELW 602



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591-1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919. Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**
The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

A reading from First Samuel.

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and

say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord."⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

A reading from Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

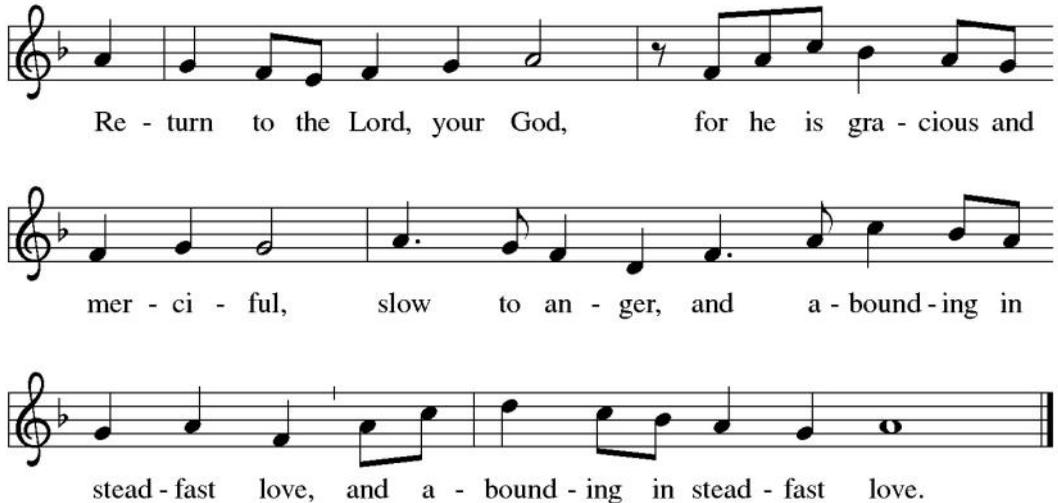
and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL:

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and

said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him,

“Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW 779

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see. | 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. |
| 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed! | 5 When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun. |
| 3 Through many dangers, toils, and
snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, | |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. responding with "Your mercy is great".

A brief silence.

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, especially in Iran, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and the whole Middle East, Raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen. 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

- Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
- Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
- Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
- Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
- Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
- Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Communion will be distributed continuously under the direction of the ushers. Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshipers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of



all the world a - way; you
all the world a - way; you
all the world a - way; e -



suf - fered death our lives to save; have
set us free from guilt and grave; have
-ter - nal peace with God you made; give



mer - cy now, we pray.
mer - cy now, we pray.
us your peace, we pray.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION HYMN*“Seed That In Earth is Dying”*

ELW 330

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.</p> <p>2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life.</p> | <p>Heaven's own praises begin here
where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.</p> <p>3 Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929. English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou
art:
thou my best thought both by day and by
night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my
light.</p> <p>2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my
high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of
my pow'r.</p> | <p>3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty
praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou
art.</p> <p>4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION HYMN*“On My Heart, Imprint Your Image”*

ELW 811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856-1921, alt. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.**SENDING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

ELW 324

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime. | 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day. |
| 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy. | 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide. |

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*“Alas! And Did My Saviour Bleed”*

The Eternal Candle is given by the Congregation of St. Michael's.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class will meet on an irregular schedule. The class schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- Sunday, March 15

All classes start at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this year's program please contact Pastor Chris.

CHRISTIAN ED

Check out our bulletin board for full details and schedules for our groups. The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- **Little Ones & Loved Ones** (birth to 4/years) will meet on 3/22
- **Pray & Grow** (K-5th grade) will meet on 3/29
- **Faith in Conversation** (All Adults) will meet on 4/12
- **Michaelights** (6-12th grade) will meet on 4/19

All groups meet at 9:30 AM. Please see Pastor Chris, or Kim Billet with questions.

RENTING SPACE AT ST. MICHAEL'S

We welcome opportunities to share our space with St Michael's family members and friends in our community. There are a variety of rooms available for social gatherings, such as bridal or baby showers, birthday and retirement celebrations and memorial events. We have hosted music lessons, recitals, auditions and rehearsals. Our social hall stage is well-suited to support students or performers at all levels. Civic groups or social / hobby clubs are also invited. Flexible office space is available for those who work from home but occasionally need a site for meetings or interviews. Honorariums for the use of church spaces vary based on event details. Please note that the church building and grounds are smoke and alcohol free.

IHOC ADOPT A BOX COLLECTION

IHOC is collecting personal care items for adults and children in shelters. You can help by filling a show box or plastic gallon bag with personal care items (soap, wash cloths, deodorant, razor, shampoo, conditioner, menstruation products, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotion). **Hotel/travel sized products are especially appreciated.** Boxes and bags can be dropped off in the narthex by TODAY, March 15th. Please label your box/bag as male, female, gender neutral, child, or infant.

FESTIVAL CHOIR INVITATION

Mark Dishong will be continuing the Festival Choir this spring as a seasonal ensemble available to all SMLC members and non-members. It is designed to provide an opportunity for singers whose schedules prevent them from making a yearly commitment to sing in the Adult Choir. The core group of this ensemble will be the Adult Choir. All Youth are also welcomed to join this music ministry. Festival Choir will sing for the Palm/Passion Sunday liturgy, March 29 at 11:00am and Easter liturgy, April 5 at 11:00am. Festival Choir Rehearsals dates are Sundays (12:00-12:45 p.m.) March 1, 15, 22, and 29. *To find out more information about the Festival Choir please contact Mark Dishong at markdishong@gmail.com.*

EASTER DINNER BAGS FOR LSM

Social Outreach Committee is asking our congregation to provide Easter dinner for fifty families in Lutheran Social Ministries' North Camden Affordable Housing Program. Please take a bag, and sign up on the sheet that corresponds to the color tag you have chosen. Please return your filled bags by Sunday, March 22, 2026. Monetary donations are also welcome, and will be used to purchase suitable proteins to accompany the dinner bags. Please write "Easter Meats" on checks and pew envelopes. All donations must be received by Sunday, March 22, 2026.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Join us every Wednesday evening during Lent, (February 25 through April 1) as we gather for Holden Evening Prayer at **7:00 PM**. Holden Evening Prayer Services will also be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

STITCHING SISTERS

Stitching Sisters meet on the second and third Thursday of each month; this month's meetings will be March 12 & 19. Meet us in the Choir Room from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Bring your lunch, hooks, needles and yarn—or just come for fellowship!

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths will adorn the chancel for our Easter celebration on April 5th. If you would like to sponsor the beauty of our Sanctuary, please fill out a form and return it to the office by no later than Sunday, March 29th. Each flower costs \$12. Checks should be payable to "St. Michael's Lutheran Church." Write Easter Flowers on the envelope and in the check memo. Forms are available in the Narthex and through Constant Contact.

MARTHA CIRCLE

The next meeting of Martha Circle will be Tuesday, March 17 at 12:00 PM in the Social Hall. Vivian Gano's group will be responsible for desserts and drinks. Bring your lunch and your ideas—all are welcome to join us!

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. The next opportunity to provide BREAKFAST casseroles will be THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026. Casseroles can be dropped off between 10:00 AM and 12 Noon at the Elkins Road door. Please only use the tins and recipe provided by SMLC that can be found in the narthex. Use this link to sign-up: <https://bit.ly/4soiR8q>

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15

8:15 AM Worship In-Person
11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook,
YouTube
12:00 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal
12:30 PM Reconciling Works
2:30 PM IHOC Mall Walk
6:00 PM NA Meeting
7:00 PM Confirmation Class

Monday, March 16

Tuesday, March 17

12:00 PM Martha's Circle
7:30 PM Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting
7:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service

Thursday, March 19

11:00 Stitching Sisters
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

8:15 AM Worship In-Person
9:30 AM Little Ones & Loved Ones
11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook,
YouTube
12:00 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM NA Meeting



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.