

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Lessons and Carols

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 worship services this morning are 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

Members and visitors are asked to sign in via this QR code with our Church Connect app or with the iPad located near the welcome table in the narthex.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean after experience as an army chaplain; this experience convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that there was scope for something a little more imaginative.

The 1918 service was adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson for use at 10 pm on Christmas Eve in 1880, in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his Cathedral in Truro. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

The assembly is invited to stand if able.

GATHERING HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

ELW 269

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child. | 3 | And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone. |
| 2 | He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy. | 4 | Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned. |

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is born!

Alleluia! Christ is born!

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.

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

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

Let us pray: Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

First Reading:

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the

night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

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

MUSICAL RESPONSE *"Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light"*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly
light,
and usher in the morning;
ye shepherds, shrink not with
affright,
but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be,
the pow'r of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making. | 2 All blessing, thanks and praise to
thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given;
thou hast our brother deigned to be,
our foes in sunder riven.
Oh, grant us through our day of
grace
with constant praise to seek thy
face;
grant us ere long in glory
with praises to adore thee. |
|---|---|

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. John Troutbeck, 1832-1899, st. 1; Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, st.

Second Reading

Micah 5:2-5

A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

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

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Third Reading:

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

A reading from Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

ELW 294

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago. | in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ. |
| 2 Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign; | 3 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart. |

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Fourth Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

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

Carol

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

ELW 282

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|--|--|
| <p>1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heav'n's all-gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.</p> | <p>4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
 by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth
 its ancient splendors fling,
 and all the world give back the song
 which now the angels sing.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Fifth Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Organ Interlude

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Sixth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

A reading from Luke

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

MUSICAL RESPONSE *“My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord”*

ELW 235

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on
your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call
me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great
things for me,
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their
thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good
things
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant
Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Seventh Reading

Luke 2:8-20

A reading from Luke.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Carol:

"The First Noel"

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their
sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so
deep.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Refrain

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional

Eighth Reading:

Matthew 2:1-11

A reading from Matthew

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On

entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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

Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” WOV 646

1	We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.	3	Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. <i>Refrain</i>
<i>Refrain</i> Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!		4	Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. <i>Refrain</i>
2	Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again; king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. <i>Refrain</i>	5	Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. <i>Refrain</i>

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt

Ninth Reading: **John 1:1-14**

A reading from John.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was

coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Hymn:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW 270

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"</p> | <p>2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p><u><i>Refrain</i></u>
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"</p> | <p>3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt

The assembly is invited to stand.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

NICENE CREED

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first ecumenical council of Nicaea. This commemoration is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of this church's ecumenical self-understanding and vocation. Recent developments in Lutheran-Orthodox relations present the possibility of continuing the journey toward reconciliation between Eastern and Western Christianity after nearly a millennium of church division over the addition of the filioque clause ("and the Son") to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. The Joint International Commission on Theological Dialogue between the Lutheran World Federation and the Orthodox Church's 2024 Common Statement on the Filioque is an important ecumenical breakthrough, concluding that the filioque is no longer church-dividing and inviting further dialogue and renewed theological reflection on the Trinity and the role of the Holy Spirit. In faithful response to this invitation, today we will profess the Creed without the filioque clause.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need, responding with "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

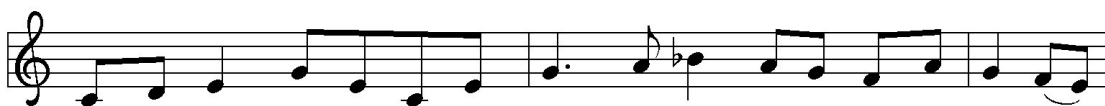
OFFERING

Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website or our Church Connect app.

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and 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 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. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

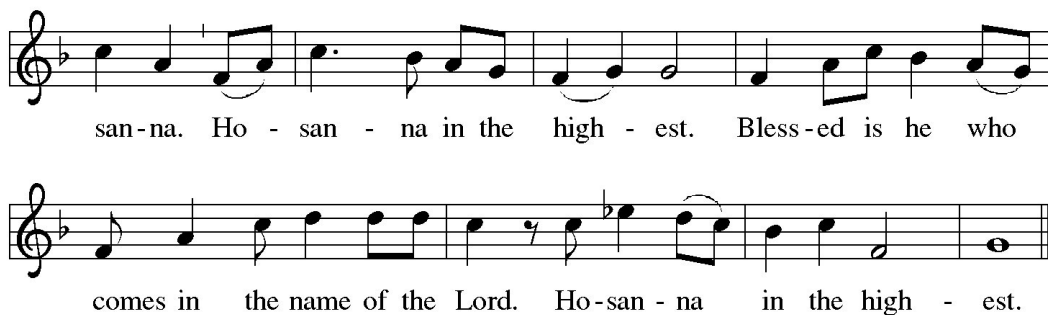
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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". Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

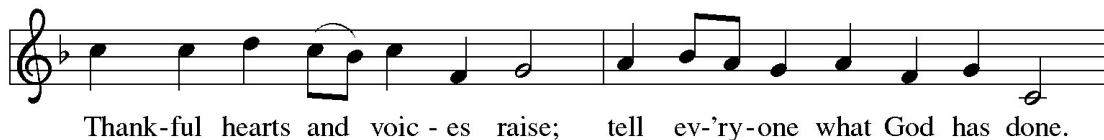
The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

ELW 204



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

SENDING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

ELW 288

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today;
 ox and ass before him bow,
 and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today!
 Christ is born today!</p> <p>2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now ye hear of endless bliss:
 Jesus Christ was born for this!</p> | <p> He has opened heaven's door,
 and we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born for this!</p> <p>3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now ye need not fear the grave;
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 to gain the everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

BOOK CLUB MEETING 1/5/26

Our next meeting of the SMLC Book Club will be Monday, January 5 at 7:00 PM. Join us for our discussion of our next selection, *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. All are welcome!

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

Altar Guild will be dismantling the beautiful evergreen décor that adored our Sanctuary for the Christmas season right after the 11:00 service on Sunday, January 4th. Come and join us; the more hands, the faster the work is complete.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

- Sunday, January 4, 11

All classes start at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions about confirmation or are interested in being a presenter for this years 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:

- **Faith in Conversation** will meet in the Choir Room on 1/4
- **MichaelLights** (6-12th grade) meets in Youth Room on 1/11/26
- **Pray & Grow** (K-5th grade) meets in Lower Sunday School Room on 1/18/26
- **Little Ones & Loved Ones** (Birth-4 y/o with a loved one) meets on 1/25

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

RENTING SPACE AT ST. MICHAEL'S

St Michael's is blessed to have a beautiful place for worship, fellowship and Christian education! 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. Help us spread the word and contact the church office for more information.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 28

10:00 AM Lessons, Carols, & Communion

6:00 PM NA Meeting

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

Thursday, January 1

Office Closed

New Years Day

Friday, January 2

Office Closed

Saturday, January 3

Sunday, January 4

8:15 AM Worship Service (In-Person)

11:00 AM Worship Service (In-Person,
YouTube, Facebook)

12:15 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal

12:00 PM Unhanging of the Greens

6:00 PM NA Meeting

7:00 PM Confirmation Class

*A Blessed and Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year to all our
St. Michael's family and friends!*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.