

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.



³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 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.



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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 :

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

ELW 777

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."

4 "Come to me, repentant sinners;
leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion,
turn to me, I call your name." *Refrain*

Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary;
come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
at this table be my guest." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

3 "Come to me, believers burdened;
find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
turn to me and seek my face." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374. 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.**

Leader



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.

All



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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²

through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

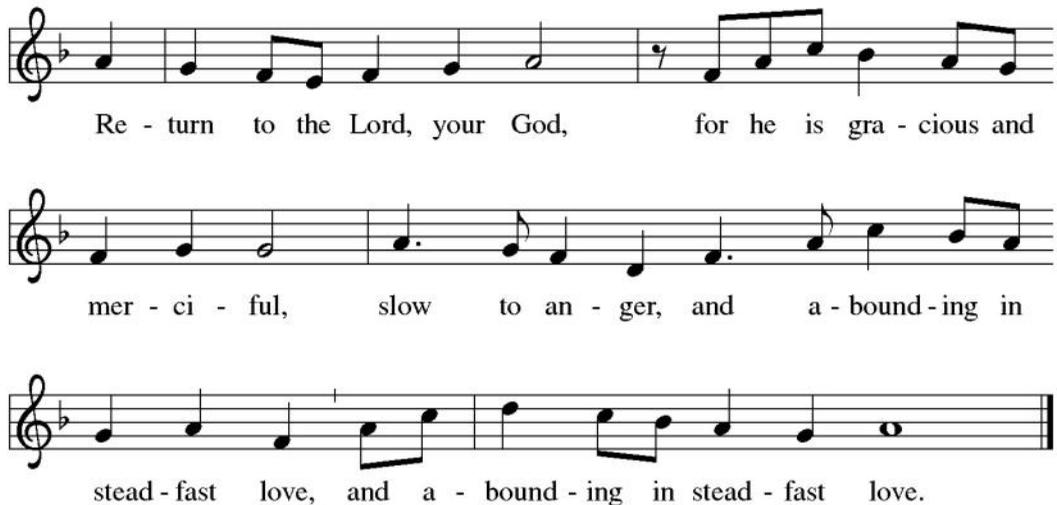
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."³³ So the disciples said to one

another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

ELW 611

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad. | of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
and now I live in him. |
| 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank | 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done. |

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889. 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.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Today, we especially pray for Iran, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and the whole Middle East Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles, especially our Handbell and Vocal Choirs. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING: 8:15: "Meditation"
 11:00: "Quiet Praise"

Handbell Choir

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 app.

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and



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”. Worshippers 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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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. | 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. |
| 2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life. | |

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

“For All the Faithful Women”

WOV 692

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.
They served with strength and
gladness
in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness,
proclaimed your pow'r to save. | 8 For Ruth who left her homeland
and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship
Naomi's God till death,
we praise you, God of Israel,
and pray for hearts set free
to bind ourselves to others
in love and loyalty. |
|---|---|

13 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas
who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness,
her heart an open door.
Send us, O Christ, your Body,
where people cry in pain,
and touch them with compassion
to make them whole again.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923. © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved 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. Strömme, 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

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

ELW 658

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call. | 3 For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast. |
| 2 We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we fill. | 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light. |

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

The Eternal Candle is given by The Billet Family.....

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

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:

- **MichaelLights** (6-12th grade) will meet on 3/8
- **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

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 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.*

JOSEPH'S HOUSE DINNER CASSEROLES

The next opportunity to provide DINNER casseroles will be **TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026**. Casseroles can be dropped off before or after worship services. *Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Joseph's House on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet at church at 4:45pm (Dinner is served at 6:00pm) and return around 8:00pm. You can also drive yourself and meet at Joseph's House at 5:15pm. If you would like to serve, please contact Ray Kratz by phone (609-923-5718) or email (raykratz@gmail.com).*

EASTER DINNER BAGS FOR LSM

The Social Outreach Committee is asking our congregation to provide Easter dinner for fifty families in Lutheran Social Ministries' North Camden Affordable Housing Program. Fifty Wegmans' bags are in the Narthex. Please take a bag, and sign up on the sheet that corresponds to the color tag you have chosen. As always, feel free to personalize your bag with holiday napkins, décor, or cards. 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.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be closed from Monday, March 9 through Thursday, March 12. In the event of an emergency, please contact Pastor Chris. Anything else will be handled upon the office's re-opening on Friday, March 13. Thank you for understanding.

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.

IHOC MALL WALK NEW DATE: MARCH 15, 2026

The new date for the annual IHOC Mall Walk will be Sunday, March 15, 2026. All previous information stays the same in regards to location and timing of the event. Reach out to Ruth Morgenroth with any questions or concerns.

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!

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8

Cross Roads Middle/HS Retreat

8:00 AM JH Casserole Drop-off

8:15 AM Worship In-Person

9:30 AM Michaelights

11:00 AM Worship In-Person, Facebook,
YouTube

12:00 PM Vocal Choir Rehearsal

12:30 PM "The 1946" film & discussion

4:00 PM NA Anniversary Celebration

Monday, March 9

Office Closed

Tuesday, March 10

Office Closed

7:30 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

Office Closed

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

7:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service

Thursday, March 12

Office Closed

11:00 Stitching Sisters

7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 13

Saturday, March 14

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 at Moorestown
Mall

6:00 PM NA Meeting

7:00 PM Confirmation Class



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.