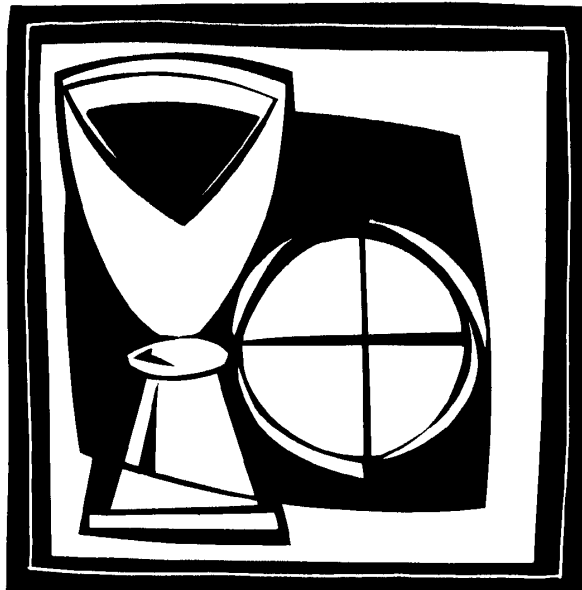


ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 2022 at 8:15 AM
Spoken Liturgy with Holy Communion

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.

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful God,

ALL: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

ALL: Amen.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

DIALOGUE

Pastor: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

ALL: a people holy to the Lord our God.

Pastor: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

ALL: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Pastor: One does not live by bread alone,

ALL: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

Lector: A reading from Jeremiah.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

Lector: A reading from Hebrews.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. ^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL:

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God’s call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is
completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you,
but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against
two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father, mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south
wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You
hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you
not know how to interpret the present time?”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand.

APOSTLE’S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer, responding with "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep and cry out to you especially...those we name aloud now...and hold in our hearts. In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

ALL: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

The table is prepared for communion.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

ALL: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. 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, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** 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.*

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our

wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.
ALL: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor: The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **ALL: Amen**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church Parish Announcements

Altar Flowers - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Janet Thompson in memory of Gregory John Thompson on what would have been his 41st birthday.

PACK-A-SACK FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Please help us collect back-to-school items for the **Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council**. Child-size backpacks are available in the narthex, or you can buy your own to fill with back-to-school items such as pens, pencils, notebook paper, ruler, folders, or any type of school supplies that you think a child could use. IHOC will be distributing these items to the various homeless shelters in the area. Thank you for your support. For more information, contact the church office. Filled backpacks should be returned by **Sunday, August 28.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

An updated Church directory will be available in the Narthex, Sunday August 14. If you would like a PDF sent to you please notify the church office.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. Thank you to the "Casserole Crew" for their support. **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, August 25.** Please sign up using the digital link: https://bit.ly/jhbc_August22 . Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on August 25 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

A FUN-FILLED DAY WITH THE ENTIRE SYNOD!

Join the entire synod September 10th, for a fun-filled day at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson NJ. We will have an interactive mission fair, outdoor worship jubilee, and lunch. The parking lot opens at 10 am and the park remains open until 7pm to enjoy the rides. All are welcome! The cost of the ticket is \$10 before August 15. (\$25 from August 15-29). Deadline to purchase tickets is August 29th.

For more information or to **[purchase tickets go to: www.njsynod.org/synodday](http://www.njsynod.org/synodday)**

MAKE AN IMPACT ON WORLD HUNGER

Food insecurity is a serious problem for so many. "As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work." We take that call at St. Michael's and continue to impact hunger in the world, both locally and globally.

Every month we work to provide breakfast casseroles for the folks at Joseph's House. We also collect food for distribution through the work of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ programs in Camden. Many school related food programs don't operate during the summer recess. Items like canned pasta meals, mac & Cheese, canned fruit/applesauce, tuna, crackers, snacks, cereal, juice, and PB & J are especially needed now. Our long-standing relationship with LSM also extends to special Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter meals. Stay tuned for more information when those holidays approach. You can also check out the weekly email or the Sunday bulletin for the sign up link for breakfast casseroles.

We are making a significant impact in the lives of real people right here and right now. Are there places that you would like to get more involved? Are there other programs or ministries that we could help support? Let us know.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining companion churches and partners in response to this crisis. These partners provide immediate support and supplies. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region. There are ways to help in support of those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries affected by this crisis. Please pray for healing, peace and hope in their time of need. An offering labeled "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be placed in the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary or sent 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.

CARING FOR CREATION

Genesis 2:15 -Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

The Invitational and Social Outreach committee will be presenting a series of Temple talks at the 8:15 and 10:00 am services focused on the environment. The topics will include:

- August 14 - 10:00 am - Pollinator Gardens
- August 21 - 8:15 am - Trees
- August 28 - 8:15 & 10:00 am - Environmental Stewardship

Small changes in our daily living habits can have a large beneficial impact in our environment. We look forward to presenting these topics as well as soliciting your input to help protect our environment.

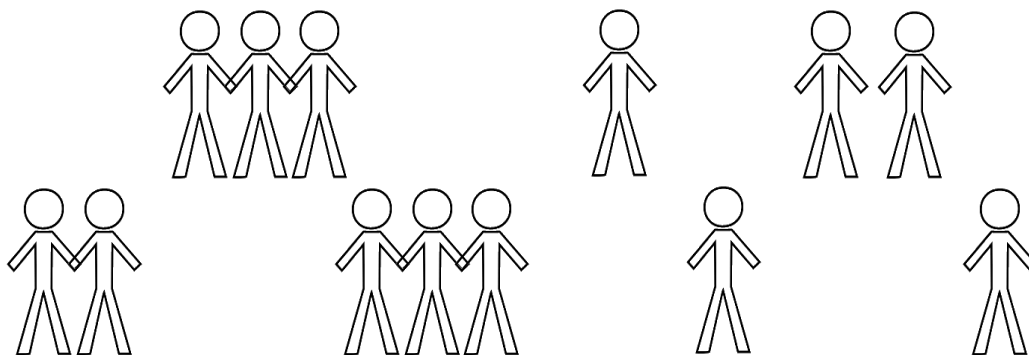
DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.



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