

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.



⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

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,



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

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me,

“Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

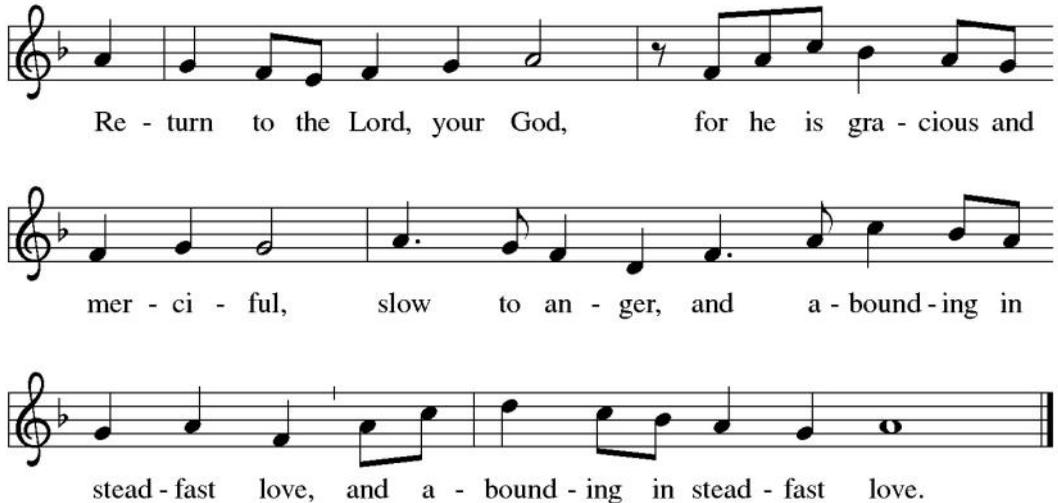
⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend

Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the

crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

ELW 334

1 Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.

one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.

Lent 5

2 We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as ev'ry breath.

3 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;

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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.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our thanksgiving for Jonathan Edwards and all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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:

“O Fairest Jesus”

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.

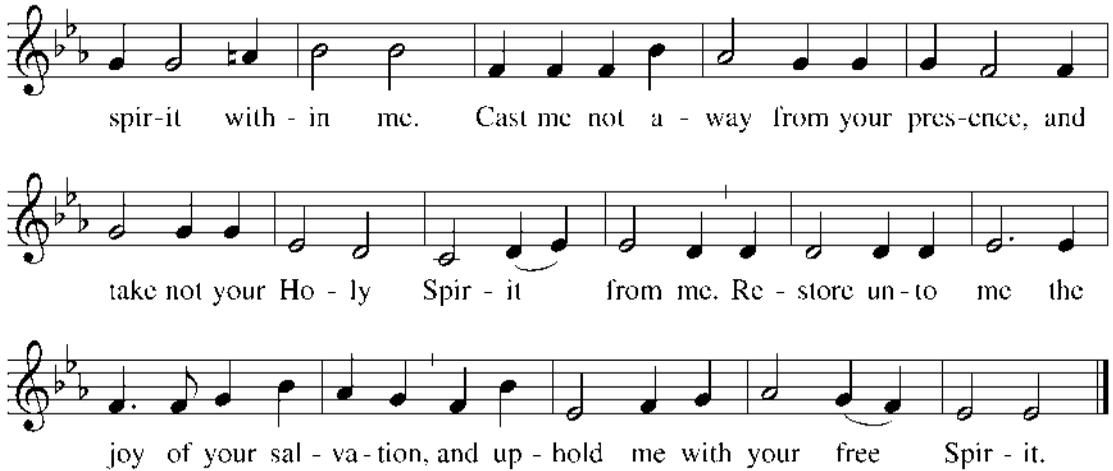
OFFERATORY

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”



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

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The word 'right' is cut off at the end of the line.



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”. 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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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

“I Am the Bread of Life”

ELW 485

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons." | 3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain</i> "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day." | 4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." <i>Refrain</i> | 5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who have come into the world. <i>Refrain</i> |

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6. Text © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. 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"

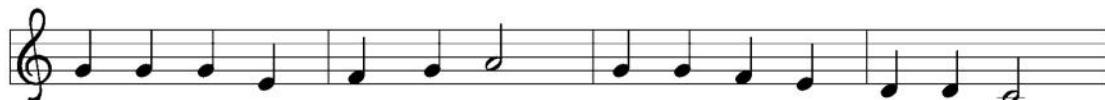
ELW 811



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

“You Are the Way”

ELW 758

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee; all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free. | 3 | You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu'ring arm; and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm. |
| 2 | You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart; you only can inform the mind and purify the heart. | 4 | You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow. |

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.. Used by permission from OneLicense.net #A-711336

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Chorale in D”

The Eternal Candle is given by Ruth Morgenroth in gratitude for her daughter Carla's health.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Sunday, March 22, 2026

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of San Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

- Sundays, April 12, 19, & 26

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:

- **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
- **MichaelLights** (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.

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

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.

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.

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>

SNOW REMOVAL APPEAL

This winter brought two major snowstorms, and keeping our church property safe for worship and ministry has come at a significant cost. We budgeted \$12,000 for lawn and snow maintenance in 2026, but the severity of the storms means we have already spent over \$11,000. With the possibility of more snow later this year, we are inviting special gifts to help cover these unexpected expenses.



If you feel moved to contribute, please note "snow removal" with your offering, go to smlc.churchtrac.com/give. or use the QR code Thank you for your generosity and for helping us care for our shared space and one another.

PARISH CALENDAR

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

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 PM Stewardship Meeting

Wednesday, March 25

LSM Food Pantry Pick-Up
9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting
7:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service

Thursday, March 26

10:00 AM JH Casserole Drop-off
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

8:15 AM Worship In-Person
9:30 AM Pray & Grow
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.