

Sunday, March 22nd 2020

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Home-Based Worship



SAINT MICHAEL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS

W I N C H E S T E R ✪ T E X A S

Worship God. | Love One Another. | Serve All People.

700 Frio Street
Winchester, Texas 78945

Office: 979-242-3444
Pastor's Cell: 979-966-8036

Rev. Nate Hill – Pastor
Mark McClain – Minister of Music
www.stmichaelswinchester.org
pastor@stmichaelswinchester.org
secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org

A NOTE ABOUT HOME-BASED WORSHIP:

This morning is the first time that we will be unable to worship together corporately due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am personally deeply saddened by this as I know you are too. For now, the plan is that all church activities through Friday, April 3rd are cancelled. We will make a determination about our activities that are scheduled for after April 3rd as things continue to develop over the next week or two. Our aim is to return to a normal schedule of corporate worship and church activities as soon as it is possible according to Godly wisdom, concern for our vulnerable neighbors, and respect for our civil authorities.

During this time, different churches are taking different approaches to helping their members continue to be fed by God's Word on Sundays. Some are producing their own live-streamed internet worship services, while others are directing their members to other resources that are already in production. For the time being, we will be equipping our members to have home-based worship led by the head of the household or done individually if in a household of one.

Below is a service for your use in this way. This service is based on "Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families – Morning" from the Lutheran Service Book on p. 295.

For the responsive readings, if this service is being used with a family, the head of the household would speak the portions marked with a **L** for leader, and entire family together would speak the sections marked with a **C**.

If this service is being used by one person individually, the individual will read all the sections themselves. I would still urge you to read the printed words aloud which may seem strange, but helps the words to truly sink in.

Links to online resources are listed throughout the document that will be helpful to you.

May God bless you and swiftly bring about the time when we are able to resume our corporate worship!

-Pastor Nate Hill

MISSION STATEMENT:

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

DAILY PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES - MORNING

The sign of the cross ✝ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

L In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b;(18:20)

L In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

C in the morning, I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Psalm 5:3

L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

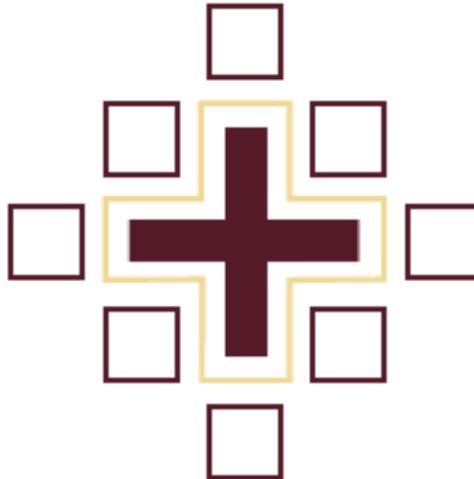
Psalm 71:8

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15

**C Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**



The hymn may either be sung or read aloud according to your preference.



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
 I have kept still and restrained myself;
 now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
 I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the Lord?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Psalm

Psalm 142

¹With my voice I cry out to the Lord;
with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.
²I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.
³When my spirit faints within me,
you know my way!
In the path where I walk
they have hidden a trap for me.
⁴Look to the right and see:
there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me;
no one cares for my soul.

⁵I cry to you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
⁶Attend to my cry,
for I am brought very low!
Deliver me from my persecutors,
for they are too strong for me!
⁷Bring me out of prison,
that I may give thanks to your name!
The righteous will surround me,
for you will deal bountifully with me.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "**It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.** ⁴**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.** ⁵**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**" ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "**Go, wash in the pool of Siloam**" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, '**Go to Siloam and wash.**' So I went

and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

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

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

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “**You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.**” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “**For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.**” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these

things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

In Place of the Sermon

Please choose one of the following 30-minute programs to take the place of the Sunday Sermon.

- **Worship Anew**
 - Broadcast on DirecTV channel 377 at 10:30 am Sunday
 - Available online at www.worshipanew.org
- **The Lutheran Hour**
 - Broadcast on KVLG/KBUK - 1570AM/104.9FM at 7:00am Sunday
 - Also Broadcast on SiriusXM 131 at 10:00 am Sunday
 - Available online at www.lutheranhour.org

Apostles’ Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Offering

Please consider making your regular tithe or offering online at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give or by mailing a check to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church, 700 Frio Street, Winchester, TX 78945.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**☩ 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.**

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

L In the darkness of sin and its death, we cry to You, O Lord. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit, and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know and be thankful for all the blessings You have given to us in Christ, our Lord, especially the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Strengthen us in faith, that we may serve You with all our body, mind, soul and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Motivated by Your Word, we pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church and all Your people scattered and isolated. Give to us good pastors and servants of Your Word who will serve us faithfully and boldly even in chaotic times. Keep them safe, comfort them and their families, and raise up many more servants for full-time church work. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Defended by Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful leaders who will preserve the precious gift of liberty and protect the lives of our citizens. Give them special wisdom, and help them to work in

harmony in the midst of this pandemic. Bless the members of our armed forces especially name those on our prayer list and others known to you here, and protect them as they defend us. Grant Your blessing to all emergency and medical workers who continue to come to our aid in times of great need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Enjoying the riches of Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to give us generous hearts, that we may share what You have provided with those in need and work for the common good of all. Give us patience in seclusion, and comfort the lonely. Grant relief to the unemployed, the underemployed, the homeless and all their families. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Knowing Your healing will and gifts, we pray You, O Lord, to spare us from all calamity by pestilence, scarcity and fear. Remember the sick in their afflictions, calm those troubled in mind and keep steadfast the dying. [Hear us especially for name those on our prayer list and others know to you here.] Show us Your gracious will, O Lord, and sustain those who are afflicted in body or mind until that day when You will bestow upon us new bodies fit for the eternal life You have prepared for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Mindful of Your promise, we ask You, O Lord, to comfort those who grieve and to build up those who mourn with hope for the resurrection. We especially pray for the family of Pat (Nanita) Ramirez who passed away Friday evening. Remembering the faithful who have died in Christ, we pray You to bring us at last to be with them in Your nearer presence, looking forward to that day when we shall join in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C Amen.

L All these things, O Lord, we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for the sake of Him alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer us with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. So we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ by answering with one voice.

C Amen.

Concluding Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and

I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Closing Words

- Let us bless the Lord.
 - Thanks be to God.**
-

PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Lydia Amaro
- Marie Ashutabi
- Don Buck
- Sherry Cook
- Charlene Franke
- Gillian Franke
- RC Franke
- Marian Fritsche
- Irma Gersch
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Thelma Kieschnik
- C.W. Kasper
- Bea Kilian
- Marie Kilian
- Audrey Koenning
- Paige Koudelik-Jones
- Rose Lehmann
- Kenny Lorenz
- Roy Medack
- Jodi Miller
- James Nawara
- Janie Nawara
- Lillian Pietsch
- Raymond Schulz
- Michelle Smith
- Kenneth Watts
- Adele Wilson
- Thelma Zoch

GRIEVING:

- The family of Pat (Nanita) Ramirez – Sister of Katrina Miertschin

SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Warren Evans – US Army – Fort Wainwright, Alaska
- Jake Hagood – US Army – Fort Hood, Texas
- Damien Hernandez – US Marines – San Diego, California
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Byron Taylor – US Army – Fort Knox, Kentucky

MISSIONARIES:

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- Rev. Duane Meissner – Belize Mission Society

This Week at Saint Michael's:

All church activities through Friday, April 3rd are cancelled. We will make a determination about our activities that are scheduled for after April 3rd as things continue to develop over the next week or two. Our aim is to return to a normal schedule of corporate worship and church activities as soon as it is possible according to Godly wisdom, concern for our vulnerable neighbors, and respect for our civil authorities.

There are a couple of things at Saint Michael's that will continue on as usual during this week. Please know that I am not on vacation or hiatus, but am continuing to work as your pastor during this time. If you would like to talk, need assistance of any kind, or would like for me to visit with you in-person, I am more than willing to do so! In any personal visits, we will, of course practice good hygiene out of concern for our neighbors and will not gather in groups of more than 10 in accordance with the directives of our County Judge and Governor. At times I will be working from my office at the church and at other times, I will be working from my home. Please give me a call anytime 24/7 on my cellphone at 979-966-8036 for any needs or to talk or arrange a visit. Our secretary, Amanda Behrens, will also be in the office Tuesday-Thursday from 9:30-3:30 to assist with any needs. Also, the church building is open if you would like to use it as a place of prayer and reflection during the week. While I do not think that it would be likely that everyone would come to use the church at one time, please be mindful of the limit of no more than 10 people gathering at once.

-Pastor Nate

Staying in Communication: With the Corona Virus please be sure to check out our website, Facebook (@smlcwinchestertx), and e-mails for update information on church activities. If you have not been receiving e-mails, please contact Amanda B. at secretary@stmichaelswinchester.org

Volunteer Help Available: We have volunteers through the church who are willing to help anyone who has a specific need at this time such as help getting groceries, supplies, etc. If you have such a need or know someone who does, please contact Tom Atkins at 512-750-3345 or me on my cell phone.

Full Scholarships to Camp Lone Star Available: Saint Michael's has full scholarships available for children of our church members to attend a week of camp this summer at Camp Lone Star. For more information, contact Pastor Nate. Please visit <http://www.lomt.com/summercamp.html> to look at the summer schedule and activities.

POBLO Sunday (March 29th) Worship at the Park Cancelled: Our POBLO Sunday on March 29th has been cancelled.

Clean-Up Day: The Board of Trustees has planned a clean-up day for the Sanctuary and Education Building on April 4th starting at 8:00am until finished. We are still hoping to be able to move forward with this event if possible. Any and all members who can help please come and bring cleaning rags. For more information ask Bobby Miertschin.
