

700 Frio Street
Winchester, Texas 78945

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

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



SAINT MICHAEL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH • LCMS
WINCHESTER ★ TEXAS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:

Welcome to Saint Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshipping the Lord with us this evening. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. Unfortunately, this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this evening. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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.

Be Born In Us Today A Series of Services for Advent

Week 1: Bringing Blessing

Order of Service

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
Genesis 12:2*

Opening Hymn *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

LSB #341

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The first Advent candle is lit.)

P We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

C **Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment of God’s promise to bless all nations.**

P The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. “So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:7-8).

C **Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Through faith in your name, Lord Jesus, we have the blessings of forgiveness and salvation!**

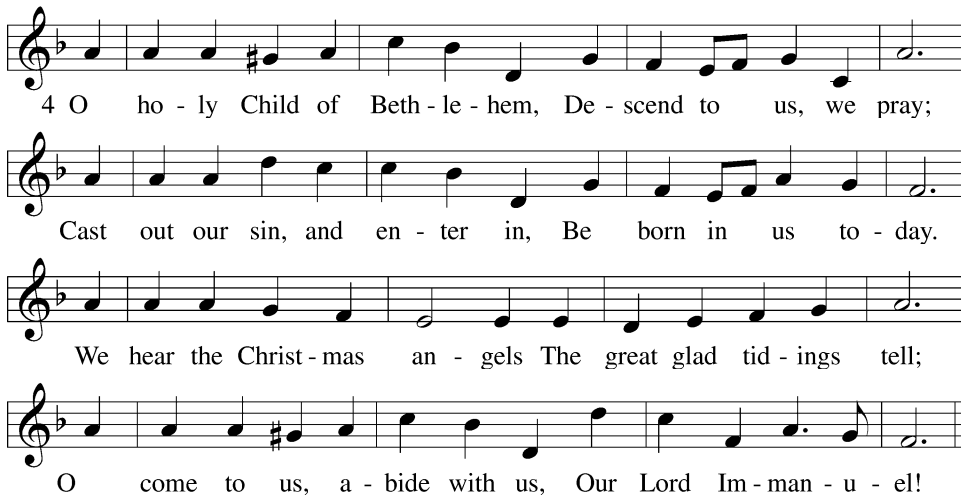
Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do not share with others the blessings we have received. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing for the nations, to atone for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

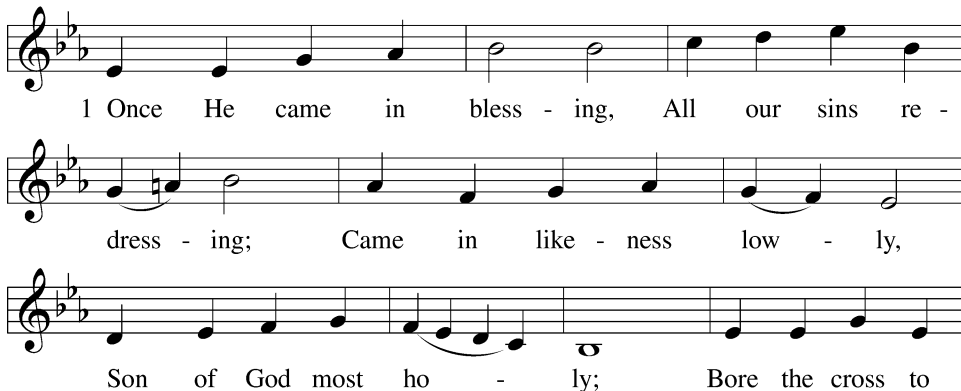
C **“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” (Romans 4:7).**



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God and Father, through the gift of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, you fulfilled your promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing for all nations. Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, was born among us to bring us the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation through faith in his name. Give us opportunities to use our earthly blessings to help those in need and empower us by your Spirit to be bold witnesses to our Savior, so that others will come to know the blessing of faith in Jesus. Hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise in his holy name. Amen.





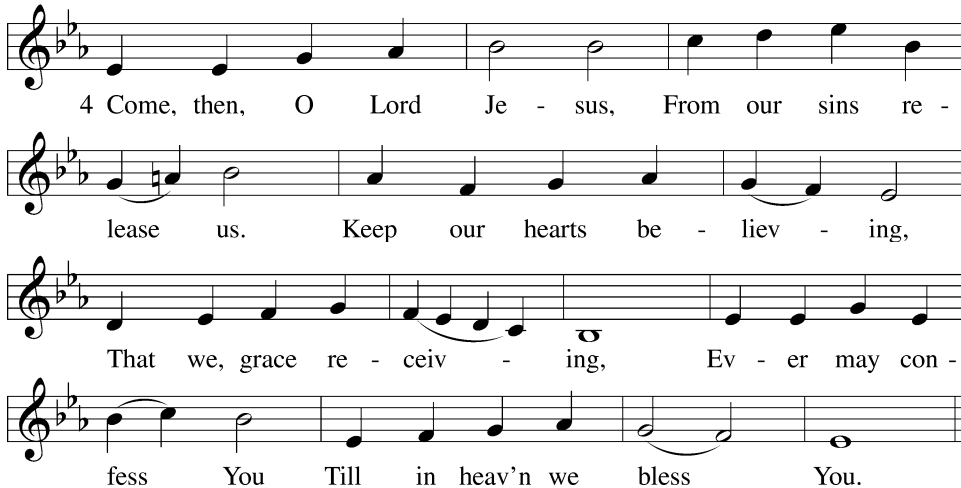
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Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534
Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Sermon

Hymn

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB #333 v. 4



Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534
Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-8

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched

his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 4:1-8

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon Hymn *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*

LSB #356

Sermon



Apostles' Creed

C 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 sign the attendance books as they are passed)*

Ushers

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,
you may do so at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give*

**Prayers**

- P** Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C** Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to bless others in your name.

- P** Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C** **Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and prayers.**
- P** Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous. Through your suffering, death, and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C** **Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord.**
- P** Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Benediction

P “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

C **For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-48).**

P “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB #350