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## **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!

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## **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.

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# Midweek of Lent 4:

## Bread of Life

## As We Gather

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

### Hymn

*"O Christ, You Walked the Road"*

LSB #424

### Invocation

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

**C Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

*2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

**P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

**C so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**P** But He was wounded for our transgressions;

**C He was crushed for our iniquities;**

**P** upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

**C and with His stripes we are healed.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Based on Philippians 2:1-11*

**P** Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

*We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.*

**P** With humble hearts, let us pray together:


**C Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

**P** Our souls are hungry and in need. We waste away without Your daily bread in our lives.

**C Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us –**

**P** to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

**C With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true bread from heaven who satisfies the hunger of our souls. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith.

**C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

### Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2-5, 11-18

<sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” . . .

<sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 19:7-10, 14

**P** The law of the LORD is perfect,

**C** **reviving the soul;**

**P** the testimony of the LORD is sure,

**C** **making wise the simple;**

**P** the precepts of the LORD are right,

**C** **rejoicing the heart;**

**P** the commandment of the LORD is pure,

**C** **enlightening the eyes;**

**P** the fear of the LORD is clean,

**C** **enduring forever;**

**P** the just decrees of the LORD are true,

**C** **and righteous altogether.**

**P** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

**C** **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

**P** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

**C** **be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

**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.**

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. . . .

<sup>15</sup>I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Verse**

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Holy Gospel**

John 6:32-37

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Hymn***“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”*

LSB #625

**Sermon**

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

## Offertory



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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

**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](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give)*





## Prayers

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation brings us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C** **Enable us to savor You as the true bread of life, trusting that You forgive us, renew us, satisfy us, and give our lives meaning.**
- P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. 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.**

## Luther's Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

### Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

### Hymn

*“For the Fruits of His Creation”*

LSB #894



