

Sunday, December 10th 2023

The Second Sunday in Advent



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

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Rev. Nate Hill – Pastor
Margie Clifton – Church Secretary
Mark McClain – Minister of Music
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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 morning. 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 morning. 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.

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING TWO

Prelude	Selected Music
Ringling of the Church Bell	Ushers
Welcome and Greeting	Pastor
Opening Hymn	<i>"Prepare the Royal Highway"</i> LSB #343

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Read Together

Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
it took deep root and filled the land.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
*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.*
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Kyrie

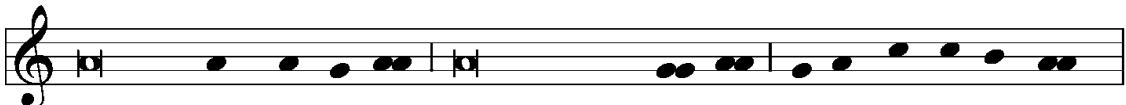
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



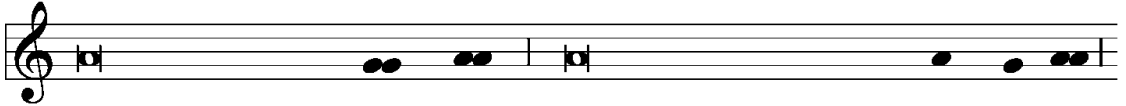
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



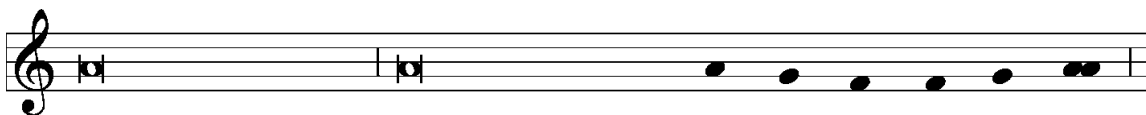
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



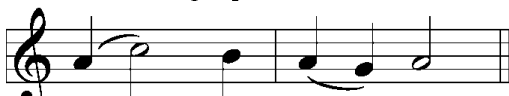
C Lord, have mer - cy.



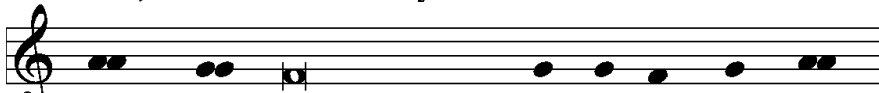
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



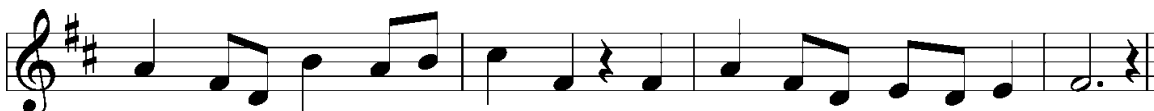
A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

“Gloria in Excelsis”



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
 take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 85

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Pastor

Hymn of the Day “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB #347

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.**

Prayer of the Church

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

The Lord’s Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**☩ 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.

Matthew 6:9-13

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*

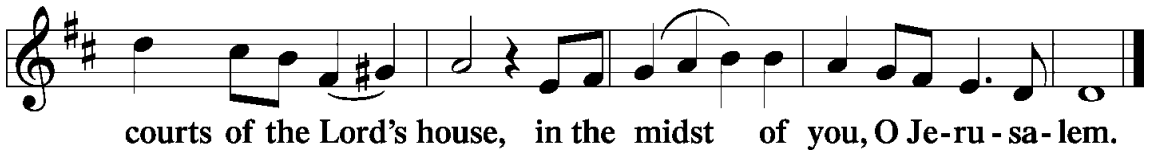


Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

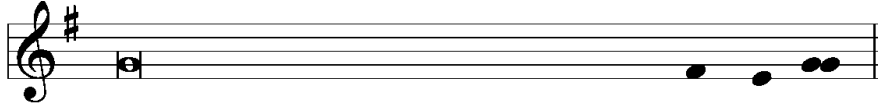
Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of five staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff begins with a common time signature (C).

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Announcements

Pastor

Closing Hymn “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

LSB #336

Postlude

Selected Music

PRAYERS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Melinda Bennett – *Bill Karisch's Friend*
- Sheila Bojorquez – *Charles Lehmann's Daughter*
- Debra Bradley – *Garry Synatschk's Mother*
- Kourtney Burton
- Erland Carlson – *Leann McClain's Brother*
- Sue Doepner – *Daniel and Karen Kilian's Friend*
- Charlene Franke
- Myrtle Friemel – *Carol Ahlschlager's Friend*
- Ivan Fritsche
- Sam Gibbs
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Gavon Grayson – *Glenn and Stacy Zoch's Friend*
- Larry Hernandez – *Marceil Prestridge's Son-in Law*
- Nicole Hernandez – *Marceil Prestridge's Daughter*
- Jerry Hielscher
- Delores Karisch
- Morgan Ray Karisch
- Evelyn Kasper – *Bill Karisch's Mother*
- Thelma Kieschnik
- Audrey Koenning
- Theresa Krause – *Diana Roeber's Friend*
- Mary Lehmann
- John Lievsay, Jr – *Kelly Franke's Brother*
- Kevin Margeson – *Kurtis Hankemeier's Brother*
- Karen McDougall – *Mark McClain's Sister*
- Dianna Mitschke – *Karen Robbins' Mother*
- Kolton Montgomery
- Janet Murphy – *Richard Davis' Sister-in-Law*
- Dwayne Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Mary Patterson – *James Franke Family's Friend*
- Lillian Pietsch
- Victoria Pope – *Mark McClain's Friend*
- Marceil Prestridge
- Layne Schramm – *Thelma Kieschnik's Grandson*
- Marie Schulz
- Raymond Schulz
- Laverne Schulze
- Barbara Spence
- Amy Wagner
- Angeline Zoch

SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES:

- Christopher Brand – US Navy – Great Lakes, Illinois
- Caleb Burton – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado
- Manuel Comancho – US Air Force – Africa – *Irma Gersch's Friend*
- Warren Evans – US Army – Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Jake Hagood – US Army – Fort Hood, Texas
- Kaleb Pyle – US Army – Fort Bliss, Texas
- Dylan Robbins – USMC – Jacksonville, North Carolina
- Ryan Spray – US Air Force – San Antonio, Texas
- Erik Vallejo – Texas National Guard – United States Border

MISSIONARIES:

- Julie Aftab – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach – Houston, TX
- Abba's House – LCMS Ministry to Refugees – Cypress, TX -
<https://abbashousetexas.com/>

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL'S:

Sunday, December 10th

- 9:00am – Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Bible Study – *Education Building*
- 10:15am – Christmas Program Practice – *Sanctuary*
- 12:00pm – 4-H Meeting and Christmas Party – *Education Building*
- 2:00pm – Confirmation – *Education Building*

Monday, December 11th

- 6:00pm – Board of Finance – *Education Building*

Tuesday, December 12th

- 2:00pm – Young @ Heart – *Zilss Hall*
- 6:00pm – WAVFD Christmas Party – *Fire Station*

Wednesday, December 13th

- 9:30am – Bible Class – *Education Building*
- 6:00pm – Board of Education – *Education Building*
- 7:00pm – Advent Midweek Service – *Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 17th

- 9:00am – Worship Service with Communion – *Sanctuary*
- 10:15am – Bible Study – *Education Building*
- 10:15am – Christmas Program Practice – *Sanctuary*
- 1:00pm – Christmas Caroling – *Meet in the Church Parking Lot*

Casserole Crew: Pat Karisch is on for the month of December. If you know of someone with a need for a meal in the congregation or community, please contact Pat at (281)682-2841.

Christmas Caroling: Please make plans to join us for an afternoon of bringing Christmas Joy and Spirit through song to our elderly brothers and sisters in Christ who reside in local care facilities or at their homes. Our annual Christmas Caroling event has been scheduled for Sunday, December 17. We will meet in the Church parking lot at 1:00 PM, and a meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall when we return. If you plan to attend, or have any questions, please contact Roland at 979-966-9397 or Robbie at 979-639-1220, by December 15. HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING!!!!

Thanksgiving Eve Food Offering: This offering yielded 383 lbs. of food items that were donated to AMEN Food Pantry in La Grange. Thank you for your participation! What a blessing!

Rehearsals for Children's Christmas Eve Program: At this year's Christmas Eve Service, we will once again be blessed to enjoy a program put on by the children of our congregation. If you would like your child or grandchild to participate, please plan on having them attend all rehearsals for the children's program. Rehearsals will take place during the Sunday School Hour each week and begin November 26th. There will also be a final rehearsal at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 20th. In order to ensure that the children are well-prepared for their songs and speaking parts, attendance at each of the December rehearsals is mandatory. Please contact Amanda Hart at 979-540-0600 or another member of the Board of Education for more information.

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 camplonestar.org/summer-camp/ to look at the summer and activities. **May 1st, 2024** is the deadline to make use of this opportunity.

Faith at Christmas Program: FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, "Faith at Christmas," on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us!!!
*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

Installation of Officers and Board Members: On Sunday, January 7th, during our Worship Service, Saint Michael's Officers and Board Members will be installed. If you are newly elected or continuing your service, please make plans to attend.

All Boards Meeting and Training: Our annual All Boards Meeting and Training will take place Sunday, January 7th at 4:00 pm in the Education Building. All board members and officers should plan on attending this meeting. At the meeting we will go over everyone's duties and responsibilities and will also set calendar items for the year.