



**St Michael's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday, December 12, 2021—11:00 a.m.**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

## Welcome Statement

St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

In Christ's love, we welcome you!



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling In Christ Congregation.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA.

Worship Activity bags are located at the back of the Sanctuary to keep little fingers and minds busy with worship-themed activities.

The nursery is open! However, it is currently unstaffed. Parents/Guardians are welcome to accompany their child(ren) in the nursery. We ask that you help us provide a safe space for the littles by following the sanitizing instructions in the room after its use.

We continue to use protocols in worship and in the building to protect children, youth and those who have not yet completed COVID-19 vaccinations. As our sanctuary seating opens up, **we remind you to space yourselves out so there is no one directly in front of you or directly behind you.**

# Sunday, December 12, 2021

## Third Sunday of Advent

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Christ's presence in our midst is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for all who long for the promise of God to be born among us. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

### +GATHERING+

#### PRELUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*  
J. S. Bach

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*O Antiphons*

CANTOR: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, to whom nations shall kneel down: Come quickly, Lord and redeem us.

#### CONGREGATION:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
ELW 257, st. 4

**O Come, O branch of Jesse free,  
your own from Satan's tyranny,  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vic-try o'er the grave.**

**REJOICE, REJOICE!**

**Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.**

In the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal, "hymn" numbers are found at the top of the page; "page" numbers are found at the bottom of the page.

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathers for worship on the ancestral homeland of the Dakota people. We recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

O Antiphons  
The O Antiphons originated as a part of the vespers service in the ancient church.  
\*see Worship Notes

All are invited to make the sign of the cross † as the presiding minister begins. This sign given to us in our baptism reminds us of our identity as followers of Christ, of God's own.

## INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We come this day, O God, trusting in your tender mercy.

**To you, God, we bring our lives as living offering for you to use.**

**Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you love; take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility; take away that which blinds us and show us the world through your eyes; take away our greed and teach us how to give as you give.**

**Show us your ways, teach us your paths, that we might walk with you more closely— our hands in your hand our feet in your footsteps— following the one who proclaims your restoration and guides us in the way of peace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, looks with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

† your sins are forgiven;

your lives are renewed.

You are children of the Most High,

and recipients of holy mercy.

God strengthens you to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

ELW 263

## THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, **open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your hope and salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance and new life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

ELW 240, 3



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VEI.DEL.F.E. Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

God of Generosity, as the days grow shorter, increase our devotion to you. Help us to listen for your voice. We wait in hope. We light candles trusting that the smallest flame can drive out our greatest fears. We anticipate your coming among us with peace and thankfulness. As we await your coming, light a flame within us:

**May we shine with the brightness of your hope.**

*Worship begins with a prayer of mutuality - the presider and the congregation seeking the presence of God with and for one another.*

This season as part of our lighting of the Advent wreath we are using prayers from Lutheran World Relief, as we look to the ways God is made known to us and the needs of others around the world.

God of Generosity, as we light this third candle, increase in us a desire to share your love. Open our eyes to see what we have been given, and to offer our gifts to others. If we have food and clothing, help us to share. If we have hope, help us to share. Light a flame within us:

**May we shine with the brightness of your hope.**

God of Generosity, we remember today our siblings in Lebanon. You are a God who knows what it means to wander and seek safety and shelter. Provide peace and calm to those who flee their homes in Syria. Give them food, shelter and welcoming hearts. We pray for their safety, and trust that you walk with them. Light a flame within us:

**May we shine with the brightness of your hope.**

God of Generosity, open our hearts, minds and hands. Help us to see the abundance in our midst.

**Guide us in these Advent days until our Savior is born among us.**

Turn our attention to you, the One who is our song, our hope and our joy. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the light that has no end.

**Amen.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Vicki Hancock Wright

**+WORD+**

**FIRST READING**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, The Lord has turned away your enemies.

The sovereign of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to

*God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, silence, and song.*

Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness, and will renew you in holy love; the Lord will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

## PSALMODY

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the LORD, for the Lord has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do

This reading from the book of Zephaniah comes from the conclusion of the book and prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation and restoration is at hand.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264, v 1

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to



Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ!**

**SERMON**

Pastor Brad Froslee

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Of the Fathers Love Begotten*

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

“Prayer to the Trinity”

Brian Wren

**Living Love,  
beginning and end, giver of food and drink,  
clothing and warmth, love and hope:  
life in all its goodness— we praise and adore you.**

**Jesus, wisdom and word; lover of outcasts,  
friend of the poor; one of us yet one with God;  
crucified and risen:  
life in the midst of death— we praise and adore you.**

**Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love; bridge-builder,  
eye-opener, waker of the oppressed,  
unseen and unexpected,  
untamable energy of life— we praise and adore you.**

**Holy Trinity, forever one, whose nature is community;  
source of all sharing,  
in whom we love, and meet, and know our neighbor:  
life in all its fullness, making all things new:  
we praise and adore you.**

*God feeds us with the  
presence of Christ in the  
Sacrament of  
Communion.*

## +COMMUNION+

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all  
**And also with you.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all  
people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God."*

*The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."*

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

We gather as a community to celebrate Christ's banquet.  
We receive the gift of God's grace.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God,  
you have come among us in this meal. By the Spirit's  
power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.  
**Amen.**

Communion will be distributed in the pews. If you did not receive elements upon entering the sanctuary an usher can provide them to you.

God blesses us and  
sends us into the world.

## BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy  
Spirit, through Christ Jesus who draws near.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice*  
from *Emmanuel Comes!*  
Marilyn & James Biery

*Refrain*

Re - joice, re - joice, God's king - dom is com - ing! Re -  
joice, re - joice, our Sav - ior is near! Re -  
joice, re - joice, the truth of God's pro - mise Ex -  
plodes in - to life with a vi - sion so clear: Em -  
man - u - el comes! Je - sus is near! Em -  
man - u - el comes! Our Sav - ior is near!  
near!

*Last time*

*to Verses*

3

Verses 5

1. The voice of one that  
 2. Make straight the crook - ed

cri - eth "Pre - pare ye the way" Is  
 path - way, Let hearts now pre - pare To

still the voice pro - claim - ing to us in our  
 see the great sal - va - tion of God ev - 'ry -

day. So lis - ten to this mes - sage, Res -  
 where. Our Sav - ior, Christ is com - ing To

pond with glad sounds, Our Sav - ior, Christ, is  
 show us the way; With ov - er - flow - ing

com - ing! The ech - o re - bounds:  
 glad - ness Let ev - 'ry - one say:

*to Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
 Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*  
 Paul Manz

Our worship is over,  
 our service begins.

## WORSHIP NOTES

### ○ Antiphons

The ○ Antiphons originated as a part of the vespers service in the ancient church. There is mention of them in the writings of Boethuis (c. 480-524). By the 8th c. they were a ritual part of the advent liturgical practice of the Roman church. Each of the antiphons highlights a title for the Messiah: ○ Wisdom, ○ Adonai, ○ flower of Jesse, ○ key of David, ○ Radiant dawn, ○ King of the nations, ○ Emmanuel. The Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one **Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia** - the Latin words **ero cras** are formed, meaning, **Tomorrow, I will come**. These antiphons became the basis for our great advent hymn, "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*"

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- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation ELW are found in the ELCA hymnal titled, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.
- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation ACS are found in the new ELCA hymnal supplement titled, *All Creation Sings*.
- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation GC are found in the GIA hymnal titled, *Gather Comprehensive*.

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Pastors:** *The Rev. Brad Froslee, The Rev. Ali Ferin*

**Musicians:** *Tom Bartsch, organist*  
*Youth Choir, Cory Bock, director,*  
*Wenshuai Zhang, accompanist*  
*Megan Mathison Wynia, Cantor, Soloist*

**Lector:** *Chris Erickson*

**Usher:** *Carol Hansen*

**Worship Flowers:** *Dawn & Mark Westin*

*In honor of Angela & John - who's sacrifice gave us our whole world.*



## Announcements

### Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

### Confirmation

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.

### Youth Music Rehearsals

Wednesdays

Youth Bells 5:30 p.m.

Celebration Singers 6:30 p.m.

Spirit Choir 7:30 p.m.

### Chapel Ringers

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

### Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

### Fall Yoga Devotion

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.



### Bake Sale

to benefit the Summer  
Youth Service Trip

December 19, 8:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



### Holiday Gift Drive

Gift tags will be available on the  
Christmas Tree in the Narthex  
through December 19th.

Gifts can be placed under the tree  
in the Sanctuary -  
attach the tag to the gift, please do  
not wrap them.

We will be providing holiday gifts  
for two families within our  
community.

Thank you for helping make the  
holidays brighter for a family in  
need!

### WINTER BOOT DRIVE

NOV 24 -  
DEC 31

DONATE NEW OR GENTLY USED WINTER BOOTS FOR  
FAMILIES IN THE ROSEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Winter Boot Collection Drive

Let's make sure that  
everyone in our  
community has warm,  
dry feet this winter!

- The collection drive will run through the end of December.
- Donations can be placed in the green box in the narthex.

~Thank you for your generosity.



# This Week at St. Michael's

## Sunday, December 12

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School &  
Can Do Fundraiser

10:00 a.m. Sandwich Making for  
Union Gospel Mission

11:00 a.m. Worship

## Monday, December 13

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Yoga Devotion

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

## Tuesday, December 14

11:00 Guatemala Team Meeting

2:00 p.m. Food Mobile Distribution

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

## Wednesday, December 15

12:00 p.m. Faith in Daily Life

5:30 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal

6:15 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Chapel Ringers Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Spirit Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 16

9:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study

5:00 p.m. Befrienders Meeting

6:30 p.m. St. Michael's Singers Rehearsal

8:00 p.m. Men's Bible & Brew

## Friday, December 17

January Messenger Deadline

## Sunday, December 19

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bake Sale

11:00 a.m. Worship & Children's  
Christmas Program

4:00 p.m. DEI Matters



### Christmas Services

#### Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19, 11:00 a.m.

#### Longest Night Service

December 21, 7:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

#### Sunday December 26

10:00 a.m. service only

*A service of Lessons & Carols*

#### Sunday, January 2

10:00 a.m. service only