



**St Michael's**  
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

**Sunday, January 23, 2022—8:45 a.m.**  
**Third Sunday After Epiphany**

## 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.

# Sunday, January 23, 2022

## Third Sunday After Epiphany

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

What does it mean to be the people of God? The scripture lessons this morning seek to answer that question. In the passage from Nehemiah, Ezra leads the Israelite people in a reading of the law and a recommitting to the Lord's covenant. In I Corinthians, Paul uses the metaphor of a body to talk about Christian community. Each member of the Church will be equipped with the gifts necessary to unite the living body of Christ and usher in the coming Kingdom of God. In Luke, Jesus quotes Isaiah and speaks to the liberating nature of God's action in the world—a vision of jubilee where sight is recovered and captives are released

### +GATHERING+

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unites us and strengthens us.  
**Amen.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God of all people,  
You call us to care for one another,  
to serve one another with compassion,  
to love others deeply as we have been loved by You.

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 called and continue to call this land their home.*

All may make the sign of the cross †, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We confess the times when we have allowed our own desires and interests to take precedence over the needs of others.

**Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.**

You call us to deal honorably with one another, to work through our disagreements with love and integrity, to build up the Body of Christ.

We confess the times when we have found it easier to talk about a concern rather than address a concern, to let our resentment fester in silence rather than share our feelings and fears.

**Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

You call us to be honest with ourselves and one another, and in those acts of vulnerability and love you draw us closer together

**Lord, in your mercy, heal us.**

God who is rich in mercy transforms our failures and our failings into new life. Rejoice! For God's goodness and forgiveness surrounds you.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

# OPENING HYMN

*God is Here!*

ELW 526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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# THE GREETING

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

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

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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**

Living God,

**The scriptures were written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them and be challenged and comforted by your promises within, embracing and forever holding fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**+WORD+**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Natalie Romero

### **FIRST READING**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So

they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

## PSALM

## Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

**In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

**The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;** the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

**the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.  
**Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them  
there is great reward.**

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.  
**Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let  
them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think



less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia*

ELW pg. 151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 4:14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Ali Ferin

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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

You are invited to share  
a sign of peace with  
those around you.

**+MEAL+**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends with "God of grace,"  
The congregation responds, "receive our prayer."*

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray.

**Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ's table of hospitality extends to our homes.  
Here these words of grace for you:

The body of Christ is given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, our healer and host,  
**in this meal you give us a foretaste of your kin-dom where  
the hungry will be fed with good things and all will be  
united as one. Send us forth from our tables to live your  
love out loud, through word and deed, in the name of  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## +SENDING+

## BENEDICTION

May hope arise in places of despair,  
may love strengthen every weary place,  
may peace find a home where anxiety dwells  
and may courage carry you wherever your journey leads.  
Continue this day trusting that the Spirit of God  
accompanies you.  
**Amen.**

*God blesses us and  
sends us into the world.*

SENDING HYMN

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

ELW 545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS. Sicilian. 18th cent.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

Our worship is over,  
our service begins.

## WORSHIP NOTES

- ◇ Songs reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-703936. All rights reserved.
- ◇ 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*.

Confession and Forgiveness Adapted from:

Loder, Ted. "What Can I Believe?" *Guerrillas of Grace*. San Diego, CA: LuraMedia, 1981. Print.

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

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

**Director of CYF:** *Natalie Romero*

**Musicians:** *Tom Bartsch, piano*  
*Charlie Preis, Bev Stratton, The Etten family*

**Lector:** *Dolores Rivoard*

**Worship Flowers:** *Ginny Perman*

*In Memory of husband Vic, daughter Vicki Lee, and her friends Nancy Risdahl,  
Judy Hallberg, and Jane Colbert*



## Announcements

 Growing ..into the future

### Congregational “Pre-Annual Meeting” Conversation

**10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 23!**

As we prepare for the Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022, we are trying something new. We will be holding pre-meeting conversations during the 10:00 a.m. hour (between worship services) to help people become more familiar with the finances of the church and to provide insights with regard to the proposed building projects and to hear from the congregation.

Look for the Zoom invitation link in your Friday email or send an inquiry to [office@stmichaelselca.com](mailto:office@stmichaelselca.com)



**Sunday, January 23:** Members of the Finance Committee and Church Council will be present to discuss the financials at the close of 2021 and the proposed budget for 2022. This is a great time to learn more about both the budget and the budgeting process.

To view the online conversation discussing the proposed sanctuary all project and potential narthex redesign, look for the link in your Friday email or got to the **St. Michael’s website under About Us / Our Church Home.**





# This Week at St. Michael's

## Sunday, January 23

8:45 a.m.      Worship: Live Stream only

10:00 a.m.      Pre-Annual Meeting Congregational Conversation: Virtual

## Monday, January 24

12:00 p.m.      Staff Meeting: Virtual

6:30 p.m.      Yoga Devotion: Virtual

## Tuesday, January 25

9:30 a.m.      Messenger Assembly

7:00 p.m.      Desserters II Book Club—Virtual

## Wednesday, January 26

12:00 p.m.      Faith in Daily Life—Virtual

## Thursday, January 27

9:30 a.m.      Thursday

Morning Bible Study: Virtual

TBD Choir      SMART & Music Staff are  
assessing

## Sunday, January 30

8:45 a.m.      Worship—In Person

10:00 a.m.      Education Hour

11:00 a.m.      Worship—In Person

12:30 p.m.      Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting

**St. Michael's Annual Meeting,  
January 30, 12:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall.**

We also plan to stream the meeting on Zoom. Watch your upcoming Friday Flyers for the Zoom link.

Agenda Items include:

- Voting on the sanctuary wall recladding and Narthex redesign
- Approving financing and the 2022 budget
- Electing Council Members

As we strive to follow COVID protocols to keep the staff and the congregation healthy, we will not be serving lunch.