

Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church and School

“Every Heart Prepare”

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025 + 11:00 am

MORNING SONG

(with communion)

(* = please stand)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *(We pause for a time of silent reflection and confession)*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*** PSALM** *(Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7)*

A: Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

A: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,

C: The world and those who dwell therein,

A: For He has founded it upon the seas

C: And established it upon the rivers.

A: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

C: And who shall stand in His holy place?

A: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C: Who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

A: He will receive blessing from the Lord

C: And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

A: Such is the generation of those who seek Him,

C: Who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

A: Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

A: Who is this King of glory?

C: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

A: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A: Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

* SONG OF PRAISE

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 11:1–10

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 1:1–7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* SONG OF RESPONSE: “Emmanuel,” by Bob McGee

* HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18–25

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*After the reading the following is said. . .*)

P: This is Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

* 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

BIBLE MESSAGE

MUSICAL OFFERING

* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Petitions conclude with “Lord, in Your mercy,” and then all respond with “Hear our prayer.”)

* SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness.

P: By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell.

C: Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation.

P: Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

P: In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*** BLESSING**

A: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG**

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY (12/21)

Presiding Minister (P): Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

Preacher & Assisting (A): Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

Lay Ministers: Arlan Wendzel, Matt Heintz

Music Director: Jane Connon

Ushers: Jesse Hogue

Greeters: Sue Keltsch, Dar Swift

Lectors: Jesse Hogue

Children's Message: Greg Johnson

SERVING SUNDAY (12/28)

Rev. Daniel Maske

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

Arlan Wendzel, Matt Heintz

Jane Connon

Jesse Hogue

Virginia Hetrick, Meg Bess

Arlan Wendzel

Pastor Maske

Isaiah 7:10–17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18–25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.