

Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church and School

“Every Heart Prepare”

First Midweek Advent Service

+ December 3, 2025 + 6:30 pm +

(* = please stand)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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

*** OPENING HYMN #611:1, 2, 5** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(Including parts of Isaiah 40)*

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

C: Amen.

P: A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

C: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

P: Every valley shall be lifted up,

C: And every mountain and hill be made low;

P: The uneven ground shall become level,

C: And the rough places a plain.

P: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

C: And all flesh shall see it together,

P: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” *(we pause for a time of silent reflection and confession)*. O Almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, we confess to You that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and left undone. Forgive us for the sake of Your perfect Son, Jesus Christ, whom You sent to redeem the world.

Prepare our hearts to worship Him at the celebration of His first coming to be our Savior, and prepare our hearts to receive Him with repentance and faith when He comes again on the last day to be our judge. Amen.

P: By God’s grace, and through faith in the saving life, death, and resurrection of His Son, we have received the forgiveness of all our sins. Let us lift up our heads in confidence as we await our redemption at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

C: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

P: Cry to her that her warfare is ended,

C: That her iniquity is pardoned.

P: 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.

*** SONG OF RESPONSE #686:** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Hosea 14:1-9

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Revelation 22:1-5

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL READING:** John 11:17-27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

BIBLE MESSAGE: *“Every Heart Prepare: Evergreens”*

HYMN OF THE DAY #334:1, 3, 4, 6 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

*** PRAYER**

*** THE 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.

*** BLESSING** *(based on 1 Samuel 7:3)*

P: May you return to the Lord with all your hearts;
May you prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only;
And may He deliver you and bless you, for He is your eternal Savior.

C: Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN #338:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY

Presiding and Preaching (P): Rev. Daniel Maske

Lay Minister:

Organist: Keith Eiser

Lector: Dave Drzewiecki

Greeters: Virginia Hetrick, Tammy Songer

Hosea 14:1-9

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. ²Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. ³Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” ⁴I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; ⁶his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. ⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit. ⁹Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

John 11:17-27

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”