

## **Indoor Worship Protocol**

St. Michael's Executive Committee has recently discussed protocols for indoor worship and group activities and recommends following the recent CDC and state government guidelines regarding mask wearing.

- **Per CDC guidance and the easing of restrictions for indoor gatherings by the Governor's office, and along with vaccination progress, the wearing of masks at indoor services and other group activities will be optional.**
- To safeguard your health and the health of our worship leaders and to ensure the cleanest air possible, Guardian Angel air purifiers with HEPA filters and UV lighting will continue to be utilized.
- Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be on-site.
- Offerings are to be brought forward as people come forward for Holy Communion.
- Bulletins will still be sent electronically for viewing on phones, and paper copies will be available on a table in the narthex.
- Our building will be thoroughly cleaned on Monday afternoons.
- Persons shall not attend if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, have recently been in contact with someone with symptoms or has tested positive, or have recently returned from travel to a high-risk state.

### **St. Michael's Lutheran Church Mission**

A Christian community gathered by  
the Holy Spirit to declare God's love  
and grace in Christ



## Fifth Sunday in Lent

ELW setting 3

March 17, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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\* *Please stand.*

### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

#### \* GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

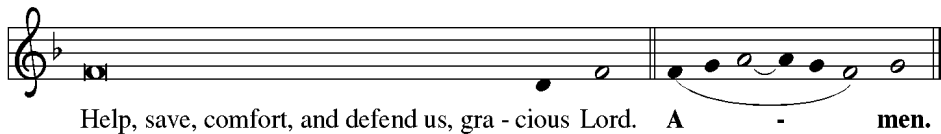
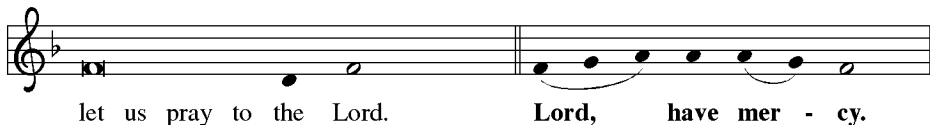
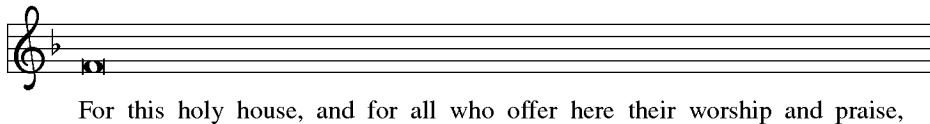
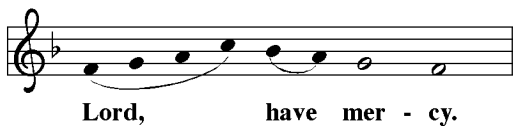
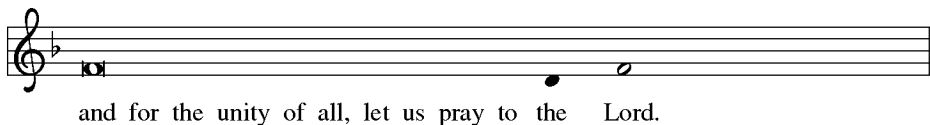
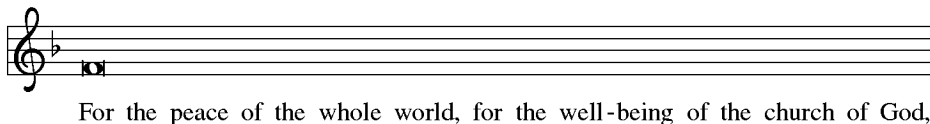
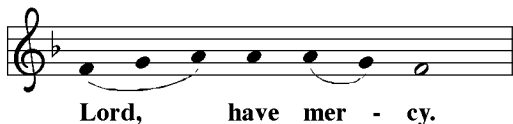
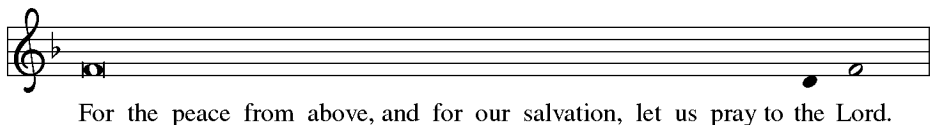
#### \* HYMN #654 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

AURELIA

#### \* 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.**

\* KYRIE



\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

O God, **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1-12

*read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>1</sup>steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>1</sup>my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through <sup>1</sup>from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>1</sup>from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know <sup>1</sup>my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- <sup>1</sup>er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil <sup>1</sup>in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right <sup>1</sup>in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born <sup>1</sup>steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>1</sup>mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth <sup>1</sup>deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom <sup>1</sup>deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I <sup>1</sup>shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- <sup>1</sup>er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear <sup>1</sup>joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken <sup>1</sup>may rejoice.**

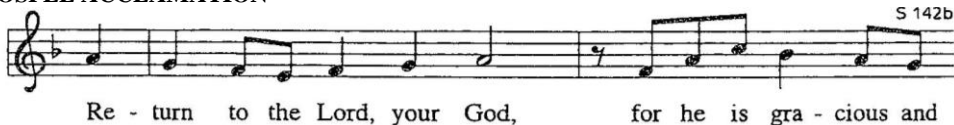
<sup>9</sup>Hide your face <sup>1</sup>from my sins,  
and blot out <sup>1</sup>all my wickedness.

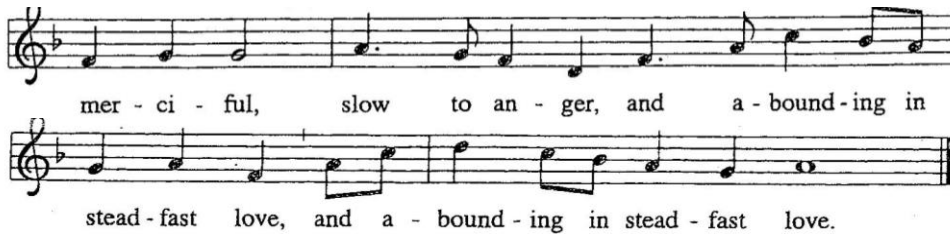
<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean <sup>1</sup>heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- <sup>1</sup>it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away <sup>1</sup>from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- <sup>1</sup>it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of <sup>1</sup>your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- <sup>1</sup>tiful Spirit.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





\* HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Harv Weitzel

\* HYMN #759 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

OLIVET

\* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayers ends with one of these responses:*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear us, O God.

Bless we the Lord

**hear our prayer.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Thanks be to God!**

(The prayers conclude:)

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

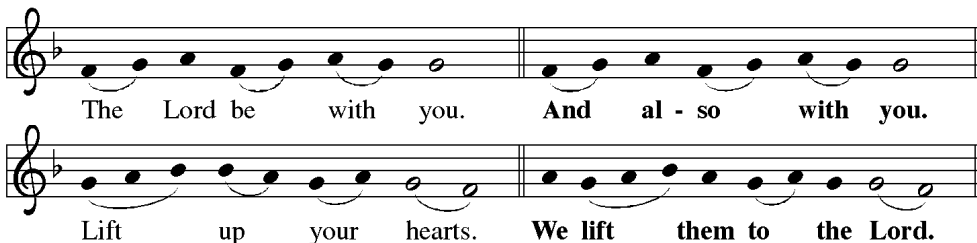
Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

\* PREFACE DIALOGUE



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

\* PREFACE FOR LENT

\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please bring your offering with you as you come forward to receive Holy Communion. Communion distribution is by intinction. The communion bread or gluten-free rice cracker will be placed in your hand. Take the bread or cracker and dip it into the chalice of wine. Do not have your fingers touch the wine.*

### **HYMN #471 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER**

**BREAK BREAD TOGETHER**

Let us break bread together on our knees,  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

#### **\* BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

#### **\* POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

#### **\* BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,  
and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

### **\* HYMN #545 LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING**

**SICILIAN MARINERS**

#### **\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayer Request books can be found at each entryway. Requests written in the Prayer books will be included in today's prayers; someone is added to the Prayer List by a note to Pastor or the church office, and will run for **four consecutive Sundays**. Requests may be renewed.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING are offered for all those celebrating birthdays this week.

CARE AND HEALING: Chris Angione, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Steve Cocchia, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Jordan Ferenc, George Garrett, Michael Grassi, Mark Hansen, Rita Hausdorff, Jack Koch, Karen Hoffman, Bob Klein, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Barbara Peter, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Toni Rohde, Marlene Schoustra, Kate Wroblewski

MISSION PARTNERS: in the Gulf States, Martin Luther Church, (ELCA) Mobile, Alabama, and our NEW ENGLAND SYNOD PARTNERS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palestine and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran church in Honduras

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter  
Assisting Minister  
Reader  
Altar Guild  
Counters  
Interim Pastor  
Director of Music

Agneta Aspinwall  
Ken D'Arinzo  
Deb D'Arinzo  
Agneta Aspinwall, Diana VanDam  
Melba Grieshaber, Ken D'Arinzo  
Pastor Harv Weitzel  
Dr. Alla Borzova

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

Greeter  
Assisting Minister  
Reader  
Altar Guild  
Counters  
Interim Pastor

Melba Grieshaber  
Kyle Runestad  
Jan Weitzel  
Yin Kahler  
Joanne Corney, Roger Heine  
Pastor Harv Weitzel

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Church Office (203) 966-3913  
Ilona Kucharczyk, Admin (203) 966-3913  
Alla Borzova, Director of Music  
Tom Peter, Council President  
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

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