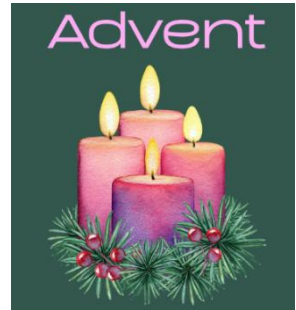




Saint Michael's Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Advent

ELW setting 3

December 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

** Please stand.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

French carol, 15th Century
Setting by Robert Lau

* INVOCATION

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.

*** HYMN #257 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (vs 2)**

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh;
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel.
Shall come to you, o Israel.

In the name of the father, and of the son and of the holy spirit. Amen.
Confession and forgiveness

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ☩ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Light the second candle.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #717 LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

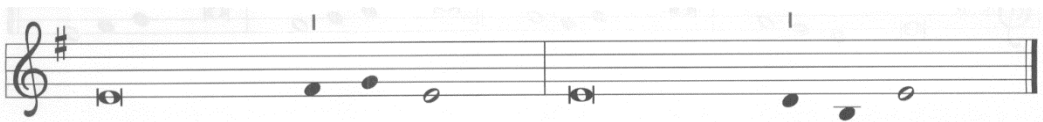
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Sing responsively



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

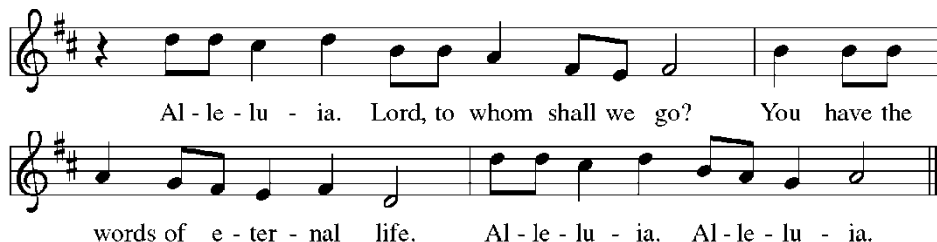
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹ be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the ¹ God of Israel;
you alone do ¹ wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious ¹ name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- ¹ men. Amen. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark A. Grorud

HYMN #249 ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless we the Lord

Thanks be to God!

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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Vocalise, op. 34, No.14

Sergei Rachmaninov

Transcribed for cello and piano by Leonard Rose

Roger Heine, *cello*, Alla Borzova, *piano*

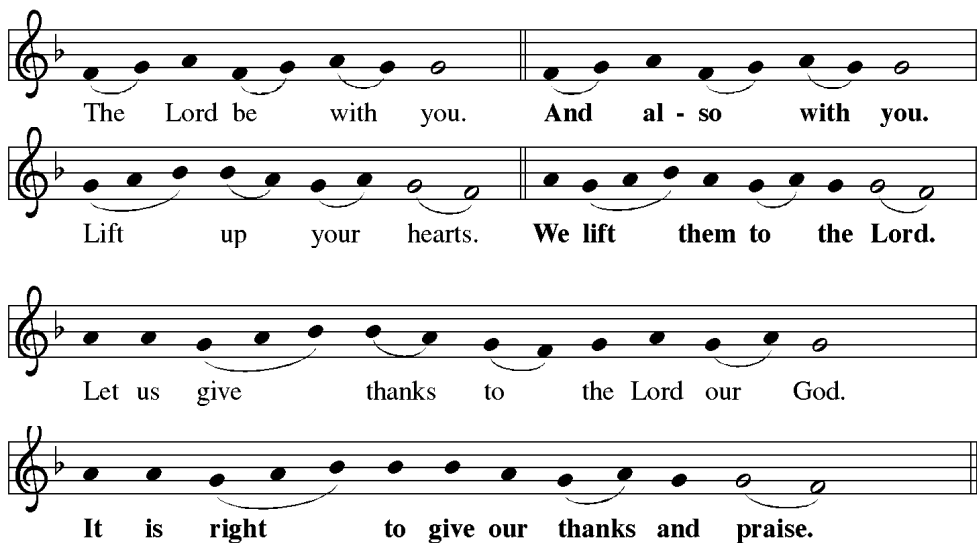
OFFERTORY HYMN LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL ELW 182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

* PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

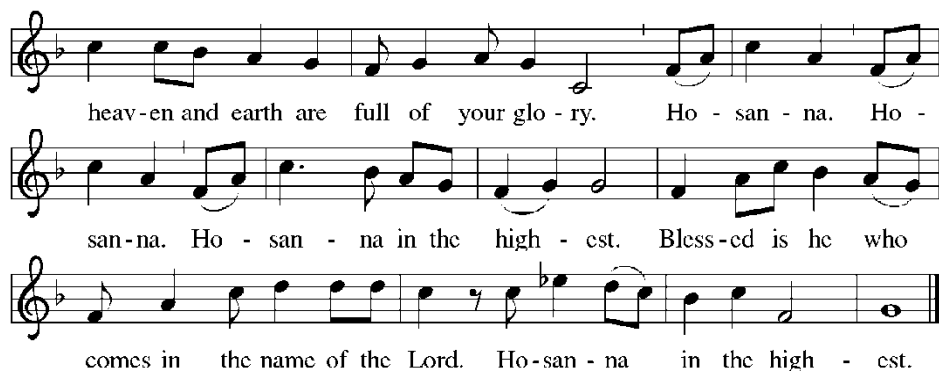
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* PREFACE FOR ADVENT SEASON

* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE 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:

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

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

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 wafer will be placed in your hand. Take the bread or wafer and dip it into the chalice of wine. Do not have your fingers touch the wine

HYMN #277 AWAY IN A MANGER (VS. 1-3)



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is night.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

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

LET US PRAY.

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

* BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

* HYMN #264

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

* DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Carillon on "Sleepers, Wake!"

David Paxton
Tune by Philipp Nicolai

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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: Heather Bakios, Stephanie Barrella, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Phil Evensen, Jill Ferenc, April Gurciullo, Rita Hausdorff, Scott Kempton, Jack Koch, Mark Kramm, Riley Johansen, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Pam Lowell, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Toni Rohde, Jan and Harv Weitzel, Jen Wolfe, Charles Yost.

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

CHOIR

Our choir has resumed singing. They rehearse on Sundays from 9 till 9:40 AM and after the coffee hour: from 11:15 till noon. The choir will continue singing on Sundays based upon availability of the choir members. They need your voices to sing all styles of music: from easy classical to contemporary, gospel, spirituals and even jazz. The music selections depend on the availability of choir members. If you play an instrument and would like to share your talent with the congregation, please, let Alla know.

SERVING TODAY

Greeter	Lisa Ferraro
Assisting Minister	Kyle Runestad
Reader	Luke Scully
Altar Guild	Agneta Aspinwall
Cookies & Conversations	
Counters	Joanne Corney, Roger Heine
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Greeter	Joanne Corney
Assisting Minister	Ken D'Arinzo
Reader	Norma Gerwig
Altar Guild	Diana VanDam
Cookies & Conversations	Nancy Perez, Elizabeth Tobey
Counters	Ken D'Arinzo, Melba Grieshaber
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

Indoor Worship Protocol

We are still careful of one another's health in the post Covid time and encourage you to keep following safe protocols.

Pastor Mark Grorud, Interim Pastor	mgrorud@gmail.com
Church Office (203) 966-3913	saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
Nancy Rowe, Admin (203) 966-3913	saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
Alla Borzova, Director of Music	music@StMichaelsLutheran.org
Ken D'Arinzo, Council President	president@StMichaelsLutheran.org
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)	

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY NEWS

December 7 - 13

ONLINE? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING...

Please use **#stmichaelsnewcanaan** as your hashtag on social media during the week. **“Like”** our Facebook Page: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please use the offering envelopes in the pew rack if you make a cash donation, and write your name on the front of the envelope. This allows us to ensure we are keeping track of members' cash contributions placed in the offering plate without their numbered envelope.

COMMUNION CARDS: To remain on the active member voting list you must submit at least one communion card per year and one financial contribution per year. If you have not filled out a communion card yet this year, please do so soon. They are located in the pew card holder and you can just drop it in the offering plate on your way up to communion.

FLOWER AND ETERNAL LIGHT CHARTS

Eternal light given by Nancy Reichart in memory of George Rabich, her father. The next available dates to sign up are for the month of December.

DEADLINE FOR WEDNESDAY'S CONSTANT CONTACT EMAIL

The deadline for submissions for the weekly constant contact email is Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Any submissions received after the deadline will appear in the following week's CC email.

21 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

This Week: December 7 - 13

Sunday, December 7

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

1:00 pm – Children’s Advent Program

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

Summary of Receipts & Expenses: October 2025

	October 31, 2025	Total 2025 YTD
	Actual	Actual
Receipts	24,457	137,704
Expenses	20,315	187,963
Surplus/ (Deficit)	4,142	(50,259)
Proceeds from Sale		1,795,207

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For pastoral services, Pastor Grorud can be reached at (402) 620-8032 or via his new email address **mgrorud@gmail.com**. He is in the church office Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Need access to the church? Please plan on coming during office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday this week 12:30 - 4:30pm.

New Canaan Historical Society:

Normal hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays. If you need access to the sanctuary on Saturdays, please let Nancy know and she will confirm with the historical society to ensure someone will be available to let you in.



Poinsettias bring added beauty to our worship during the Christmas season. You may assist St. Michael's with a Memorial Gift or a Gift in Honor of a loved one. The cost of a poinsettia is \$17.00.

Mail your gift to the church office or place in the offering. (If you write a check, please note in the memo that it is for poinsettias.) The Christmas bulletin will identify those whom you are remembering. You may take your poinsettia after the service on Christmas Eve, December 24 (or any time later).

Tear off and insert in an envelope.

of Poinsettias: _____

(Please circle one) Given in Memory of / In Honor of

Given by: _____

() I plan to pick up my gift after the service on Christmas Eve or at a later time.

Please place your order by Sunday, December 14th.