



Saint Michael's Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Christmas

ELW setting 3

December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

** Please stand.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

What Child Is This

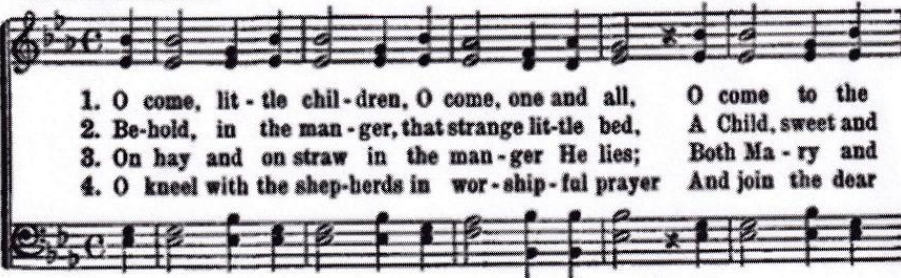
17th century English Air
Tune **GREENSLEEVES**
Setting by John M. Rasley

* INVOCATION

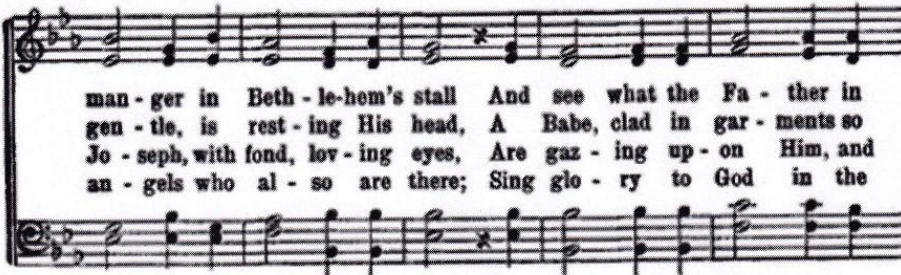
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

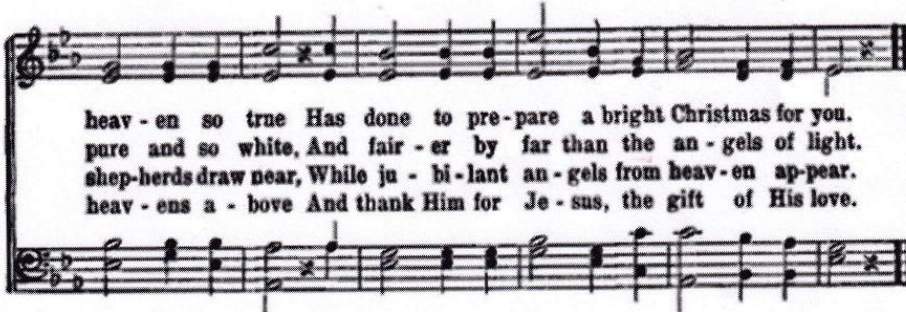
O COME LITTLE CHILDREN



1. O come, lit - tle chil - dren, O come, one and all, O come to the
 2. Be - hold, in the man - ger, that strange lit - tle bed, A Child, sweet and
 3. On hay and on straw in the man - ger He lies; Both Ma - ry and
 4. O kneel with the shep - herds in wor - ship - ful prayer And join the dear



man - ger in Beth - le - hem's stall And see what the Fa - ther in
 gen - tle, is rest - ing His head, A Babe, clad in gar - ments so
 Jo - seph, with fond, lov - ing eyes, Are gaz - ing up - on Him, and
 an - gels who al - so are there; Sing glo - ry to God in the



heav - en so true Has done to pre - pare a bright Christmas for you.
 pure and so white, And fair - er by far than the an - gels of light.
 shep - herds draw near, While ju - bi - lant an - gels from heav - en ap - pear.
 heav - ens a - bove And thank Him for Je - sus, the gift of His love.

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

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high

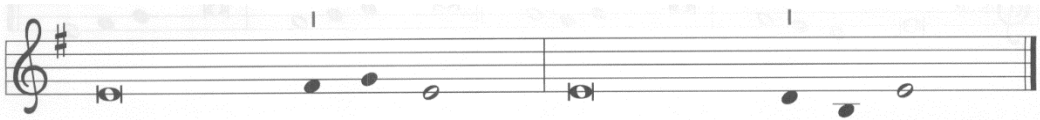
priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Sing responsively



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away. R**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,**

creeping things and ¹ flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;
¹² young ¹ men and maidens,
 old and ¹ young together. **R**
¹³ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.
¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹ faithful**
servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. ¹ **Hallelujah! R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two

years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark A. Grorud

HYMN #296 WHAT CHILD IS THIS



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



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.**

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.

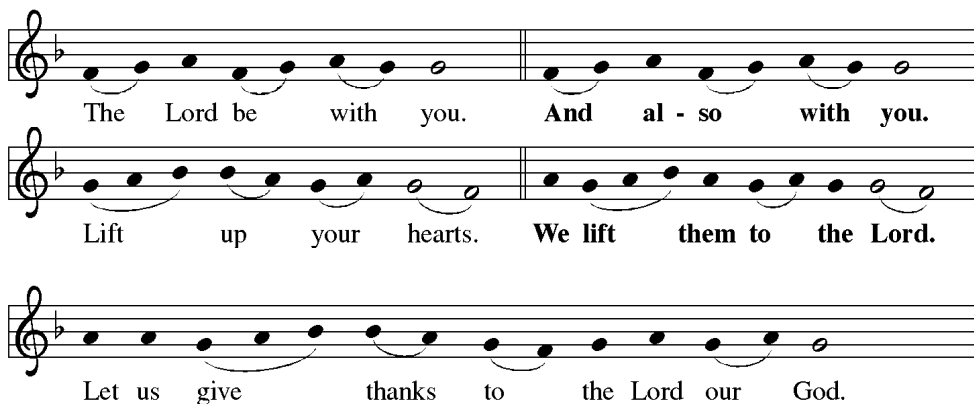
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER P 471

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.

* PREFACE DIALOGUE



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

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

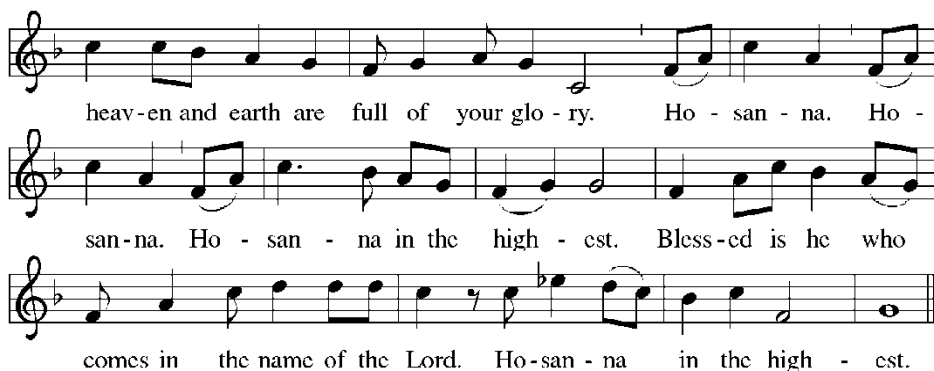
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

* PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS 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.

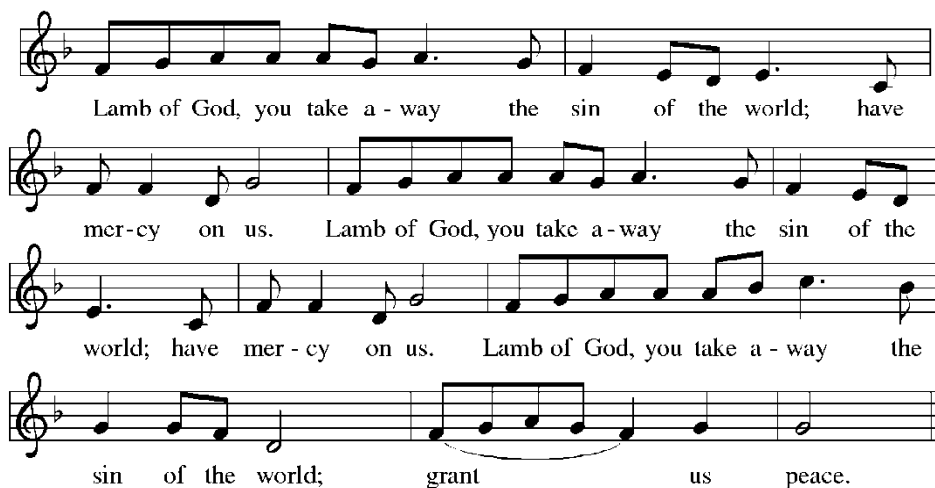
Amen.

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
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 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

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 #290

GO TELL IT TO THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



*** DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual
Setting by J. Wane Kerr

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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, Stephen Bakios, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Rosanna Dumbus, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Phil Evensen, Jill Ferenc, Michael Guhl, 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, 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

SERVING TODAY

Greeter
Assisting Minister
Reader
Altar Guild
Cookies & Conversations
Counters
Interim Pastor
Organist

Melba Grieshaber
Roger Heine
Joy Johansen
Nancy Reichart
Norma Gerwig
Melba Grieshaber, Ingrid Hollinger
Pastor Mark Grorud
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
Church Office (203) 966-3913
Nancy Rowe, Admin (203) 966-3913
Alla Borzova, Director of Music
Ken D'Arinzo, Council President
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

mgrorud@gmail.com
saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com
music@StMichaelsLutheran.org
president@StMichaelsLutheran.org

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY NEWS

December 28 - January 3

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

Thank you for helping to beautify the church for worship! The next available dates to sign up are for the month of January.

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.

26 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

94 IN ATTENDANCE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

This Week: December 28 - January 4

Sunday, December 28

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

11:00 am Call Committee Small Group
Discussions

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Call Committee Small Group
Discussions

Reminder for members to complete the CAT survey.

Here are the three questions that will be discussed during the call committee sessions;

1. As you look to the future of St. Michael's (let's say 5 years) what does success look like to you?
2. What kind of challenges will the new pastor of St. Michael's face?
3. What characteristics or qualities would the new pastor need to get us there?

If you won't be able to be there in person and would like to submit your thoughts, please email your responses to Deb Evensen (Chair of the Call Committee) at debevensen@sbcglobal.net

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 Thursday 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.

NOTE: Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22, following worship.