



Saint Michael's Lutheran Church



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

ELW setting 3

September 27, 2026

10:00 a.m.

(*Indicates Please Stand)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

Hugh S Livingston, Jr.

* 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 #526 GOD IS HERE!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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.**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

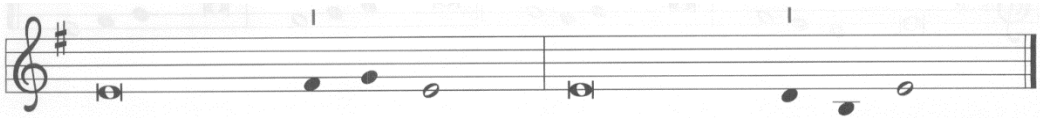
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

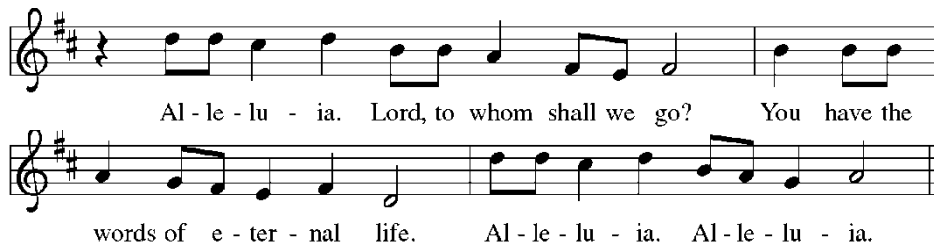
Psalm 25: 1-9

Sing responsively



- ¹ To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. R**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O Lord.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of

you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark A. Grorud

*** HYMN #818 O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU**



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

*** 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.**

ANTHEM

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

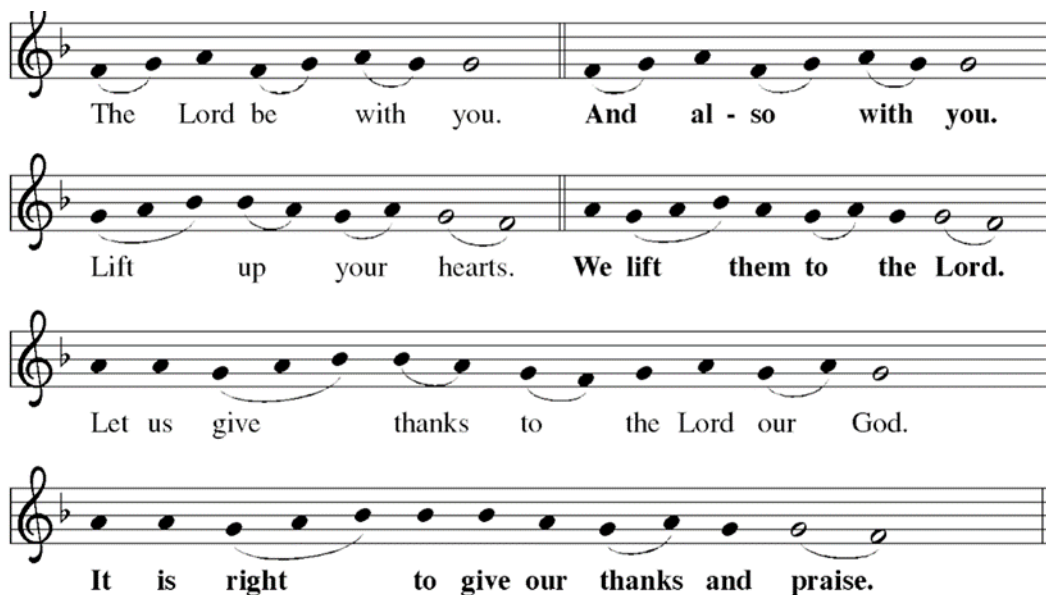
Lani Smith

Tune: ST. THOMAS by Aaron Williams

*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.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING



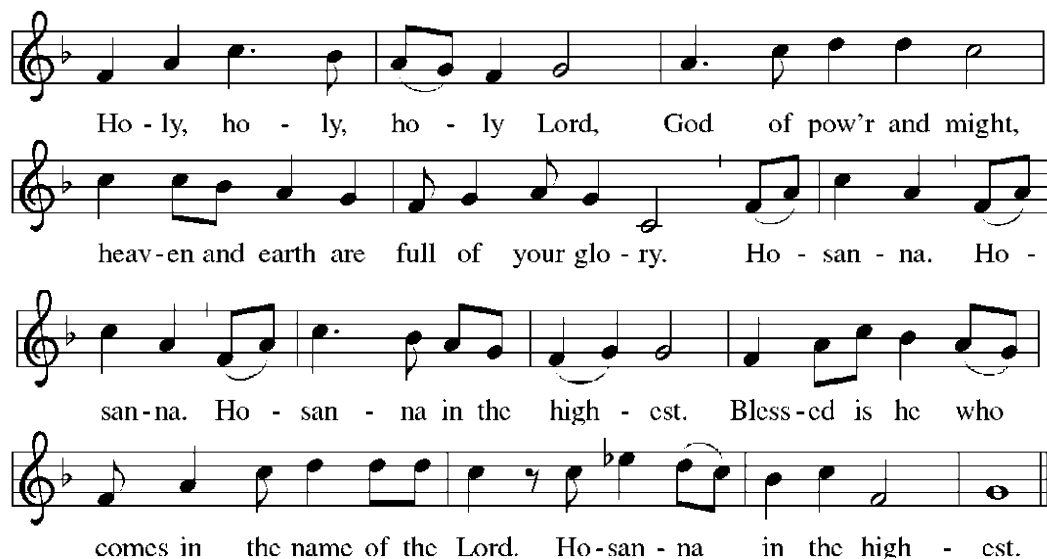
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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 PENTECOST SEASON



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

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

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.

*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

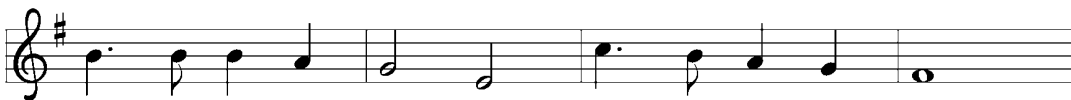
* BLESSING

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

#537

ON OUR WAY REJOICING



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Love Medley

Setting by Eugene Butler

Tunes: BEECHER, JESUS LOVES ME, and ST. THOMAS (1763)

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SERVING TODAY

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

Ken Fitter
Elizabeth Tobey
Karla Carpenter
Agneta Aspinwall
Norma Gerwig
Roger Heine, Melba Grieshaber
Pastor Mark A. Grorud
Dr. Alla Borzova

SERVING NEXT WEEK

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

Ingrid Hollinger
Roger Heine
Melba Grieshaber
Diana Van Dam
Roger Heine, Melba Grieshaber
Pastor Mark A. 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
SaintMichaelsPresident@gmail.com

WEEKLY NEWS

September 28 – October 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.

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 on the table near the entrance, and you can drop it in the offering plate on your way up to communion.

CARE AND HEALING: Elaine Bakios, Stephen Bakios, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Jill Ferenc, April Gurciullo, Rita Hausdorff, Jack Koch, Mark Kramm, Riley Johansen, Peter Linacre, Pam Lowell, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Helga Turk, Jan Weitzel, and Jen Wolfe.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING for all those celebrating birthdays this week, including Deb D’Arinzo (September 27).

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

23 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S

Please place checks or cash in envelopes located on the table near the entrance and put the donation in the brass plate as you come forward for communion. If cash, please be sure to identify yourself on the envelope. Anonymous loose plate cash does not need an envelope.

If there is no designation, we will assume that the contribution is for the general funds of St. Michael's. Or you can direct all or part of your donation to: Flowers, Eternal Light or to other special St. Michael's funds. To use a credit card or contribute directly from your bank account, scan the QR code below which links to St. Michael's account in the tithe.ly church giving system. Note that the first field at the top is the designation for the gift which can include ELCA ministries.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Cookies & Conversation
11:15 am Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Cookies & Conversation
11:15 am Choir Rehearsal

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For pastoral services, Pastor Grorud can be reached at (402) 620-8032 or via his 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: Nancy will be in on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons this week.

Summary of Receipts & Expenses: August 2026

	August 31, 2026	Total 2026 YTD
	Actual	Actual
Receipts	\$9,820	\$107,679
Operating Expenses	19,177	152,024
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(9,357)	(44,345)
Social Ministry	0	31,802
Total Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$9,357)	(\$76,147)



Prophet Ezekiel