

10:45 a.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

Order of Service
Saint Michael Lutheran Church
3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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Pentecost

May 28, 2023

Welcome, Announcements & Greetings

Recognition of Veterans

Prayer for Memorial Day

Song of Remembrance

"Taps"

Dr. Bryan Edgett, trumpet

Call to Worship

from Psalm 105:1-2, Romans 5:5 and Rev. 4:8

Pastor: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;

People: **We dwell in Him and He in us.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name;

People: **Make known His deeds among the peoples.**

Pastor: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him,

People: **And speak of all His marvelous works.**

Pastor: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,

People: **Who was and is and is to come!**

Opening Hymn

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
(vs. 1-3)

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Confession

Pastor: O Living God, we come in humility, confessing who and what we are. We are often unresponsive, for we are afraid. When Your Spirit speaks, we turn deaf ears, for we fear what You might call us to do. When Your Spirit touches our lips, we close our mouths, embarrassed to speak Your Word. When the wind of Your Spirit blows, we close the windows of our hearts, afraid the breeze will disrupt our ordered lives. When the fire of Your Spirit touches us, we quench the flame, afraid of the new life it might bring.

People: **Forgive us, and create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**

Pastor: Sovereign Lord, You have anointed us with Your Spirit, yet we have not shared Your great gift. We have not proclaimed Your good news. We have not bound up the brokenhearted. We have not proclaimed Your freedom to the captives, nor have we comforted those who mourn.

People: **Forgive us, and create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**

Pastor: Forgive us for closing our eyes to the needs of others. Forgive us for limiting Your abundance. Open our minds, Lord. Open our hearts, Lord. Open our hands, Lord. Open our lips, Lord. Open us to experience the full meaning You have for our lives.

People: Create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

Absolution

Romans 5:1-2, 5

Pastor: Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access to faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*see insert
arr. by Ben Ball*

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-5, 14-18 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

inside back cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

see insert

Sermon

It Is Well with Our Soul Series
"A Reason for Living"

Pastor Jon Zehnder

To watch and listen to last week's sermon online at www.smlcs.org,
scroll down to the bottom and click on "Watch the Live Stream."

Sermon Outline:

1. Socrates said, "The _____ life is a life not worth living."
2. Solomon's not trying to give us answers; he's trying to raise questions that will make us _____.
3. The phrase "under the sun" is Solomon's way of saying, "apart from _____." If that's the case, then there are three stock answers that people give as their reason for living.
4. The _____ who would say, "The meaning of life is to make the world a better place, to help others, to make a difference in the world."
5. The _____ says, "You're right; life is meaningless. So, the only way to find any meaning is to enjoy the little time that we have here on earth and find meaning in the simple pleasures of life."
6. The _____ says, "The meaning of life is that there is no ultimate meaning. So, you have to create your own."
7. If our worldview is that there is no God, that we're all accidents moving toward annihilation and our origin and destiny is meaningless, that's _____.
8. So, there is life above the sun, and this life is not all there is, and we have an eternal _____, and there is a God who created us and sustains us, and, therefore, there is meaning and a reason to live.
9. John says to anyone who is looking for the answer to *the* question of life, "Yes, there absolutely *is* a reason for living, but it's not a principle; it's not a theory; it's a _____ – the *logos* of life is Jesus."
10. That's the answer to Solomon's question – everything is _____ because in the *logos* we have purpose, we have a destiny, we have hope, and we have a reason to live.

Offering

A special stewardship note to our guests: The ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God's gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Offertory

"Spirit of God"

*arr. by W.H. Neidlinger
offered by Ben Ball*

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn:

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

see insert

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"The Lord Is My Salvation"

see insert

