

Saturday, April 26, 2025
5:30 p.m. – Service of the Word

Order of Service

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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Prelude *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"* Arr. by Jason Payne

Welcome and Greetings

Opening Hymn *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia"* 463

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 105:4, 8

Pastor: Seek the Lord and His strength;

People: seek His presence continually!

Pastor: He remembers His covenant forever,

People: the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Pastor: Bidden by the Lord and confident of His steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, almighty Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"
(verses 1 and 8)

461

The First Reading

Acts 5:12-16 (NIV)

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed."

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 Saint John, the twentieth chapter.

People – Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Lector – This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People – Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Evening

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

525

Sermon

"Rethinking Doubting Thomas"

Pastor Dave Bass

The Apostles' Creed

Inside back cover of hymnal

Offering

As stewards of God's abundant gifts, we are called to use our time, talents, and treasures to further His kingdom and serve one another in love.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Let us continue to grow in faith and generosity, trusting that God will provide for all our needs as we faithfully serve Him.

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.

Ministry Moment

Footsteps of Paul

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

by Townend

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ;
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Across the Lands"

by Townend/Getty

You're the Word of God the Father,
From before the world began;
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice;
Let the skies declare Your glory,
Let the land and seas rejoice!

Chorus: You're the author of creation,
You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You stilled the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free.

Chorus

With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting victory from the grave,
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake.
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.

Chorus