

A Guide to Worship at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel



*Please leave this booklet in the pew rack; it can be
downloaded from www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org/worship,
or you can ask the usher for a hard copy
if you'd like to take one with you.*

WELCOME !

Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels, a community rooted in faith, hope, and warm hospitality here on beautiful Sanibel Island. We're a church family that celebrates life together, where all ages are valued and prayer connects us in genuine friendship and moments of quiet faith. Whether you're visiting or looking for a spiritual home, you'll find a place to belong. Our worship is joyful, spirited, and centered in God's word.

Each week, all are welcome to gather at the table of grace to be fed and strengthened for the life God calls us to live. And our faith moves us outward into compassion and service for neighbors near and far. Here you'll find community, purpose, and joy.



Wherever you are on your spiritual path, you are welcome here. Take a look at the Spiritual Pathways brochure in the racks in front of your seat and discover a variety of opportunities and practices that awaken the heart, engage the body and deepen connection with God's love as we walk together on life's journey of sacred discovery.



About this Booklet

We are glad you are here today! This booklet is designed for all ages to help you follow along during the service. It shows actual items found in our church and describes every part of our worship service, so you feel welcomed and included.

Participate at your own comfort level and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask! You can ask the ushers who greeted you at the door, the priests, any of the ministers serving today or the person sitting next to you!

Upon entering the church

You will be welcomed and given a bulletin (a guide to help you follow along in the service) by an usher. Some people may be in prayer when you enter while others may be reading their bulletin or greeting the people next to them.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is one of our main resources for prayer and parts of it are reprinted in the bulletin to make it easy to follow along, but you can also use the actual BCP book which is in the pew rack in front of you, along with a second book called a hymnal that has the songs in it.

Processional Hymn



We stand and sing a song, called a hymn (many of which are found in the Hymnal in the pew rack in front of your seat) while the person carrying the cross and the person carrying the Gospel book (Lay Eucharistic Ministers), choir and priest walk (process) down the center aisle. The people walking in are part of a procession. That's why the first song sung is called the Processional Hymn.

More About the Procession



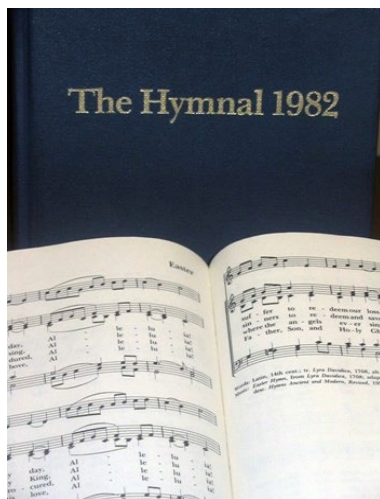
This is our processional cross. The processional cross (left) is carried by an adult or child, followed by the choir (if they are singing that day), Eucharistic Ministers (volunteers who help distribute communion and read the Scriptures) and clergy. Watch for the cross as it passes your row.

Some people bow as the cross is going by to pay respect to the cross, which is a symbol of Jesus because He died on a cross.

This cross was made to match the larger cross hanging behind the altar. That cross is original dating back to the church's completion in 1961. The church was designed by the famous architect, Gustel Kiewit, using his trademark lamella roof system.

The Liturgy of the Word

Collect/Gloria: After the opening song, we remain standing as the priest speaks the opening words. The priest will then offer a prayer (called a Collect), to help us get ready for worship; and at the end, we respond by saying, “Amen.” Did you know that “Amen” means, “We Agree” or “I believe”?



Sometimes, we have a special formation time for younger children so they can hear the Bible readings on their level and engage in activities to apply them to their lives. The priest will invite children up to the front if they would like to participate in this optional opportunity, and they will return to their families at the sign of peace.

Children are always welcome to remain with their family for the entire service. We have activity kits in a bin (one for ages 3-6 and one for ages 7-up) and bags for younger children hanging on a small coatrack right inside the red doors.



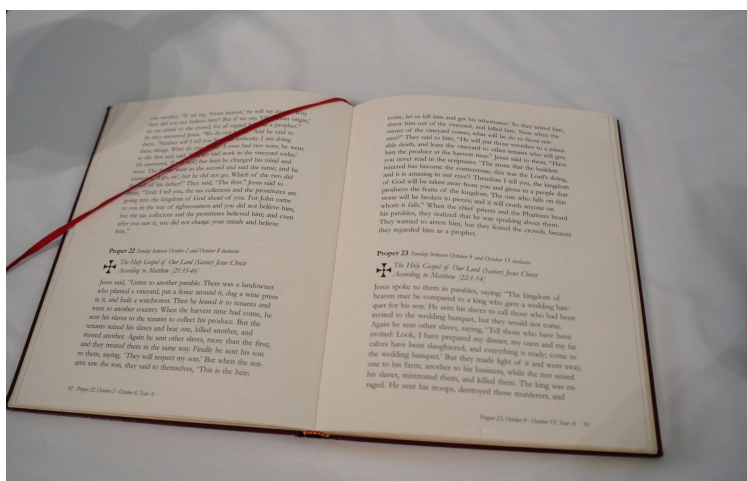
Readings: We sit while a reader (Lector) stands at the Lectern, located on the left as you face the altar, and reads the Old Testament scripture reading from the Bible which is printed in your bulletin. At the end of the reading, we respond, *"Thanks be to God."*

We then join in a response to the reading called a Psalm; which is a sacred song of prayer from the Bible. Usually, the reader invites everyone to recite it together; it is printed in your bulletin.

We will then hear the reading of the second lesson which is from the New Testament of the Bible. We again say at the end, *"Thanks be to God."*

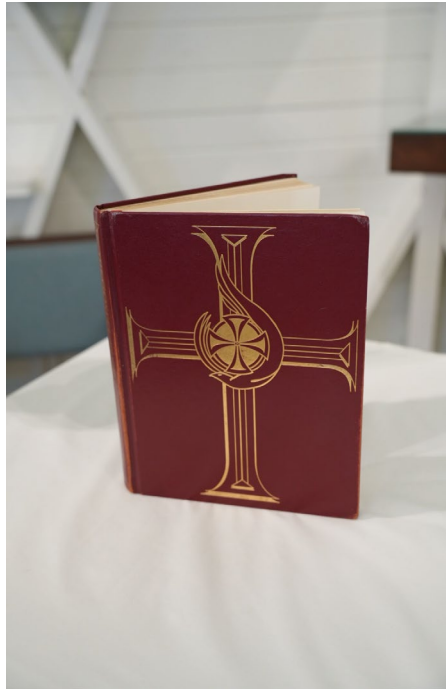
The Liturgy of the Word

Ever wonder why a certain Bible passage is chosen to be read in church? There is a set schedule of when certain passages of the Bible are used for every day of the year. There are enough readings for three years. The Lectionary contains these readings, but you can also look up in the Book of Common Prayer or on the internet and see what readings will be read each week.



Sequence Hymn: We stand to sing the sequence hymn from the Hymnal, the number will be indicated in the bulletin, or sometimes it is printed in the bulletin. While we are singing, the clergy and the people carrying the cross and Gospel book go to the altar and then lead the priest to the middle of the center aisle. Everyone in the pews turn to face them.

The Liturgy of the Word



Gospel: The priest will hold up the book (Gospel Book) and announce the Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) that is to be read. These are stories about the life of Jesus. We respond with, *“Glory to you, Lord Christ.”*

At the end of the reading we respond with,
“Praise to you, Lord Christ.”

The Liturgy of the Word

Sermon: The priest will stand in the pulpit (a raised platform) which is located on the right as you face the altar. We sit down and he/she will begin the sermon.

The priest will talk about the readings from the Bible and how they may become a part of our lives. This is called the Sermon.

At the end of the Sermon the priest will invite everyone to stand and say the **Nicene Creed**; this is an outline of what we believe, written in the 4th century, so it's been around for a long time! It can be found in the bulletin or the Book of Common Prayer.



The Liturgy of the Word

We also stand to say the **Prayers of the People**.

Prayer is communicating with God; by thought and deeds, with or without words. Some prayers are said aloud, others are spoken in our mind.

You might think of people who need your prayers and offer them now. We pray for local needs, national needs, and needs all around the world. We include prayers for things that have just happened in the world, as well as people who need our prayers every week.

Note: We also have a group of people who pray privately for people, by their first name, who request prayers for themselves or a loved one/friend. You can contact the church office to have a name added to this prayer list.



The Liturgy of the Word



Peace: As a kind of a bridge between the two parts of the service; we all stand up and the priest will say,

“The peace of the Lord be always with you,”

We respond, *“And also with you,”*

Jesus said this to His disciples when He appeared to them after His resurrection from the dead.

We then turn to those around us and offer a sign of peace; usually a handshake. Passing the peace is a symbol of unity in the Christian community.

The priest will also invite everyone to turn and face the camera above the organ in the choir loft and wave hello to all those on livestream!

We then sit down and the priest will welcome everyone to church and make a few **announcements** regarding upcoming events.

The 2nd part of the service – The Liturgy of the Table

We now move to the second part of the service called the Liturgy of the Table; which includes receiving communion.

Offertory: We honor God in many ways; one of which is to give money to help the church be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. A song is usually sung while the ushers come from the back and receive the brass plates (Alms basins) from the Eucharistic minister. They will pass the plate to the people who would like to put money in them that will help with outreach programs of the church, pay for staff, general maintenance and care of the church buildings. Many people give online as well, saintmichaels-sanibel.org/donate.



The Liturgy of the Table

Doxology: During this time, the priest will set the table for the Eucharist by placing the items needed on the altar. We will then sing a song to praise God for all that God has given us, called the Doxology.



We stand up as the ushers bring the collection plates to the front of the church. They are given back to the Eucharistic minister and then to the clergy. They are set on the altar as the people's offerings to God.

The Liturgy of the Table



Eucharistic Prayer: We begin with the priest inviting us to give thanks to God by joining in song or spoken word with some of the angels in heaven in a prayer called the Holy, Holy. Then the Eucharistic Prayer begins, this can be found in the bulletin or the Book of Common Prayer.

Watch the priest and see when he/she reaches out with their hands and asks God to send the Holy Spirit upon these gifts. There are several versions of the Eucharistic Prayer, and it will be printed in the bulletin for you to follow along.

The Liturgy of the Table

Listen for the priest to say, *“This is my body which is given for you.”* These are the words Jesus said at the Last Supper. Watch as the priest raises the host up for you to see. The priest will end by saying, *“Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.”* We say *“Amen.”*

We then say together 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*** This is a prayer that Jesus taught His disciples and is still used today by Christians around the world.



The Liturgy of the Table



This is the table of the Lord. All are welcome to the table to receive communion! Children of any age are welcome to receive communion as well.



The kneelers are at the altar rail, where you can receive communion.

The Liturgy of the Table - Communion



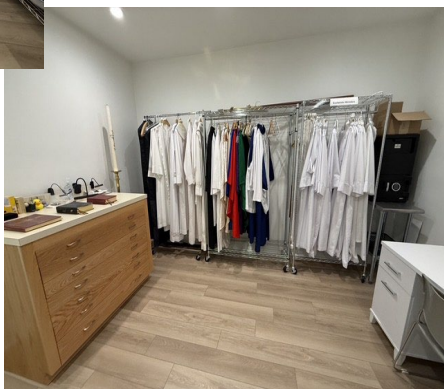
Communion: After the clergy and those serving at the altar have received communion, the people (Congregation) will come down the center aisle to the altar; you will be directed by an usher. You can receive the host and wine which Jesus said he would be present in, whenever we gather together. You can stand at the altar rail or kneel, whichever is more comfortable for you. You can also remain sitting in your pew and after everyone else has come up to the rail, the priest will come down to whomever isn't able to walk up.

You may choose to receive just the bread by crossing your arms over your chest when the wine is offered to you. That will let the chalice bearer know you do not wish to receive wine. If you do receive wine, you may either take a sip (the person holding the chalice will guide it to your lips) or dip the host into the cup slightly until the host touches the wine.

The Liturgy of the Table

After communion: Once you receive communion, you return to your seat and sit or kneel down to spend some quiet time in prayer with God. It is a time to be listening for God and also singing the songs that the choir is helping to lead.

When everyone is finished, the priest will clear the table (altar) and the items used during Communion are removed from the altar. They are kept in a separate room called the Altar Guild room and where volunteers set up and clear the altar before and after the services. The Vesting room is where all the robes are kept that people wear.



The Liturgy of the Table

We all stand for the prayer after Communion. It is found in bulletin. The priest then offers a final blessing.

Recessional Hymn: We stand to sing the final hymn. The Eucharistic ministers and priest will process down the main aisle. The priest will say a final dismissal and they will respond. The response sometimes changes, so it can always be found in the bulletin. The priest will greet everyone on the deck outside the red doors.

As you leave the church, look at all the beautiful stained-glass windows and the symbols that are inside them.



Saturday Social/Sunday Coffee Hour: Everyone is invited to stop in the parish hall after every service for beverages and treats.

**Wherever you are in life,
there is a place for you at St. Michael's.**



Other Sacraments You May Wish to Receive

Sacraments: In the Episcopal Church, there are several special moments of connection with God called sacraments that are available to all. In the waters of **Baptism**, we are lovingly called by God into God's family, which we call the Church. Holy Baptism is a sacrament that all people of any age are welcome to receive; we welcome adults who have not been baptized and parents who seek baptism for their child.



One does not need to be a member of the parish to be baptized. If you are new to the Episcopal Church and have already been baptized in another denomination, you may wish to renew your faith life; this is called **reaffirmation of your baptismal vows**.

Other Sacraments You May Wish to Receive

Marriage is the sacramental rite of the church in which two persons "enter into a life-long union", make their vows before God and the Church. The Episcopal Church and St. Michael's is proud to support equal marriage among two people of any gender.

Confirmation is a mature, public affirmation of your faith, celebrated by the prayers and laying on of hands by our bishop. It is a celebration of your baptism and your desire to live out your faith in the Episcopal Church.

Reception is for those who have been baptized and confirmed in a Christian denomination that has a ritual of confirmation (such as Methodists, Catholics or Lutherans) who wish to join the Episcopal Church.

Funerals: The Episcopal Church has a beautiful burial liturgy, available to everyone. All are escorted out of this world with beauty and dignity and grace.

Anointing of the Sick (Unction): Through prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing with blessed oil, the Church offers God's healing grace for body, mind, and spirit to anyone who is ill or in need of healing, not limited to only those near death.

Reconciliation: In this rite, a person confesses their sins to God in the presence of a priest, who offers counsel and pronounces God's forgiveness.

For more information on receiving any of these sacraments, please contact our Rector, Fr. Bill Van Oss, rector@saintmichaels-sanibel.org

Glossary of Terms

Acolyte – A young person or adult who assists the priest and carries the cross and candles in procession.

Alms Basin – The large plates used to collect the offerings.

Altar – The table used by the priest during the second part of our service.

Bells – Our large bells ring every day at 9am, noon and 6pm (the traditional times for prayer) and 5 minutes before the start of each service. We also ring one bell 3 times during the words of consecration, when the priest lifts up the bread and wine with the same words Jesus used at the last supper.

Book of Common Prayer – A book that contains services for the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the Episcopal Church. It also contains the Psalms and the outline of our faith.

Bulletin – A booklet given out by the ushers when you first come into the church building. It helps you follow along in the service.

Chancel – The area past the pews which includes the altar and seats for the leaders of the service.

Glossary of Terms

Choir – People who serve the church through sung prayer and help lead the congregation in song.

Congregation – The people attending the worship service.

Eucharistic Ministers – They assist the priest during Communion by delivering the wine and reading scripture.

Holy Eucharist – A sacrament which Jesus gave us to recall His life, death, and rising from the dead.

Hymnal – Book of hymns which are songs of praise to God.

Kneeler – The wooden box located at the bottom of some of the pews in front of you. You can gently pull the kneeler down to you when you are kneeling or push it back up from you when you leave the pew. Kneeling is optional.

Lector – The person who stands at the lectern (platform) and reads the Scriptures out loud.

Glossary of Terms

Priest – A person who serves God in a special way, especially by offering the Eucharist, preaching the Gospel, and caring for the people of God.

Sanctuary – The area where the chairs and pews are located in a church.

Ushers – They welcome you when you come in the church building, give you a bulletin, count the number of people in attendance, take up the offering and assist people in coming forward for Communion.

To find out more about St. Michael's:

You can learn more about St. Michael's through many different social media tools:

www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org - has general information about the church and is 24/7 faith formation at your fingertips with resources for all ages!



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www.instagram.com/saintmichaelssanibel/



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