

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
**"People of Christ Making a Difference"**  
**119 N Church Street**  
**Lexington, SC**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 5, 2020**

**WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE!**

During this time of social distancing here are a few things to remember:

We are back to regular office hours Monday through Friday. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help! The pastors are available by calling the church (359-6562), calling the Crisis Care Line after hours (808-6471), or emailing them ([pat@sslc.org](mailto:pat@sslc.org) and/or [jasonantley@earthlink.net](mailto:jasonantley@earthlink.net))

If you visit our website ([www.sslc.org](http://www.sslc.org)) you will see additions to the main page. On your phone, please make sure you are on the full website (just scroll down and click the icon that says full website). At the top you will see SIX RED BOXES. Here are the details:

Box 1) The **"Latest COVID-19 Info Update"** – where we will post the latest church update.

Box 2) The **"Latest Church Announcements"** – this is the green bulletin insert you would normally get on Sunday.

Box 3) The **"Latest Church Bulletin"** – which will correspond to the services on YouTube.

Box 4) The **"Latest Worship Videos"** – where you can click to participate in our virtual worship services, or you can copy and paste [tinyurl.com/SSLCWorship](http://tinyurl.com/SSLCWorship) into your browser to take you there directly. Services will be posted by 12:30 PM on Wednesdays and 8:30 AM on Sundays.

Box 5) **"Online Giving"** – Don't forget to support our ministry during this time apart by either mailing your donations to the church (119 N Church Street, Lexington, SC 29072), giving online, or giving through the Givelify app. This may also be a time to consider direct deposit giving. For more details please call the church office to contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds.

Box 6) **"Virtual Communion Explanation"** – instructions for communing at home during virtual worship

If you need any sort of assistance (ie needing food, getting groceries or prescriptions, going to medical appointments, anything at all), please call the church office or one of the pastors. We have folks who are willing to help in any way they can! Please take time to call folks who may not have a strong network and may be in need. Neighbors helping neighbors is one way we can be "People of Christ Making a Difference!"

We will continue sending out emails but you can also check out our website and our Facebook page for updates. God bless you! We love you! Stay safe out there!

## GATHERING MUSIC

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A MOMENT FOR PEACE

## PRELUDE

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,

**in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

### RESPONSIVE LITURGY

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.**

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. Come, let us worship the LORD!

### THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion”  
from The Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:  
behold, thy king cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:  
behold, thy king cometh unto thee.

## SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” <sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Pat

## SERMON

Pastor Pat

## 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 FAITHFUL

## OFFERING

It is during times like these that we notice an even greater purpose for our ministry and life together in Christ as we love and support each other and the world around us. Don’t forget to support our ministry by mailing your offering to the church, giving online ([www.sslc.org](http://www.sslc.org)) or through the Givelify app. This may also be a time to consider direct deposit giving. For more details please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.

## ANTHEM

*“He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd”*  
from *The Messiah*

G. F. Handel

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,  
and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and He shall give you rest.

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart:  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**C**hrist welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! This Holy Sacrament is a fundamental part of how we participate in worship and receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. It is customary to use bread and wine for this meal, however with the given circumstances we invite you to find whatever is most appropriate in your context for your family to share. As you gather together to receive the real presence of Christ found in, with, and under the elements, be assured that the gifts we are given by God in the Holy Sacrament transcend space and time. May we be fed and nourished by God through this meal so that we may persevere and continue in discipleship this and every day.

*(As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

*The blood of Christ shed for you.*

*The communicant may say: "Amen.")*

## **BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Barbara “Gram” O’Brien on her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

**The Church Staff**

**Crisis Care Line: 808-6471**

**Website: [www.sslc.org](http://www.sslc.org)**

The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle

Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life

Mr. Matthew Ganong, Organist

Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

Mrs. Bailey Parker, Music Director

Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director

Mr. Eric Abramson, Sexton

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