

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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 and/or jasonantley@earthlink.net)

If you visit our website (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) **"Weekly Bulletins"** – which will correspond to the services on YouTube.

Box 2) **"Virtual Communion"** – explanation and instructions for communing at home during virtual worship.

Box 3) **"Click Here For Our YouTube"** – where you can click to participate in our virtual worship services, or you can copy and paste tinyurl.com/SSLCWorship into your browser to take you there directly. Services will be livestreamed at 12:30 PM on Wednesdays and 11:00 AM on Sundays.

Box 4) **"Latest Church Update"** – where we will post the latest COVID-19 church update.

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) **"Green Sheet Announcements"** – this is the green bulletin insert you would normally get on Sunday.

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

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Calling to mind the frailty of our human condition, let us confess our sin to God.

Amen.

Good and loving God,

you made your abundant creation for the use and enjoyment of all people. We confess that we have held the things you have given to us too closely, and have not shared freely with all in need. Help us to receive your gracious word and to practice generosity in our daily lives. Amen.

God calls us to seek good and to turn away from evil. To those who have faith in Jesus Christ God grants forgiveness of sin, strength in weakness, and the promise of eternal salvation.

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

We do not hide God's Word from our children and children's children.

We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of our ancestors God worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

He divided the sea and let his people pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all night long with a fiery light.

He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

Come let us worship our almighty and most gracious God!

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"All Who Love and Serve Your City"

ELW 724

All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless,

In your day of loss and sorrow, in your day of helpless strife,
honor, peace, and love retreating, seek the Lord, who is your life.

In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus, "You must work while it is day."

For all days are days of judgement, and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him, off'ring peace from Calv'ry's hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name "The Lord is There!"

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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) 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.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

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

Christ 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 gracious gifts of the Lord God be upon you and increase the work of your hands, and may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW 632

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of his father, Guerry K. Taylor, by Jennifer and Brant Taylor.

The Church Staff

Crisis Care Line: 808-6471

Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Mr. Stephen Abbott, Seminarian
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

The Rev. Jason T. Antley
Mrs. Bailey Slice Parker, Music Director
Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director
Mr. Eric Abramson, Sexton

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

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