

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

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 15, 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) **"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](http://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

To you I lift up my eyes,

**O you who are enthroned in the heavens!**

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,

**as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

so our eyes look to the LORD our God,

**until he has mercy upon us.**

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,

**for we have had more than enough of contempt.**

Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

**Come, let us seek the Lord's face!**

## THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." <sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*"We Labor Unto Glory"* Chris Harris and Isaac Wardell  
CCLI Song # 7097869, License # 2440064

My God, my God where e'er I go, glory. Where I reap and where I sow, glory.  
When my hands, they grip the thorn, glory. In the still and in the storm, glory. Glory.

*Refrain:* Oh we labor unto glory till heaven and earth are one.  
Oh we labor unto glory until God's kingdom comes.

The sun, it shines and then goes down, glory. Rain, it pours and beats the ground, glory.  
Dust, it blows and ends my days, glory. Hearts, they burn beneath Your gaze, glory. Glory. *Refrain*

My heart, my hands, they're kingdom bound, glory.  
Where thorns no longer curse the ground, glory.

Trim the wick, ignite the flame, glory. My work, it will not be in vain, glory. Glory. *Refrain*

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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.

**OFFERING HYMN**      *"When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)"*

ELW 785

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain:* It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. *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

**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 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**

*“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”*

LBW 389

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, as soldiers of the cross,  
lift high his royal banner; it must not suffer loss.  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry his army he shall lead,  
till ev'ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;  
this day the din of battle, the next the victor's song.  
The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see,  
and with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

**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 loving memory of Leon Strock and his birthday on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> by Myra Strock.

**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. 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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