

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

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**November 22, 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@ssl.org](mailto:pat@ssl.org) and/or [jasonantley@earthlink.net](mailto:jasonantley@earthlink.net))

If you visit our website ([www.ssl.org](http://www.ssl.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

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

## THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*"Beautiful Savior"*

ELW 838

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

Pastor Jason

## **SERMON**

Pastor Jason

## **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

*"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

ELW 855

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

## 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

*"Rejoice, the Lord is King"*

LBW 171

Rejoice, the Lord is king! Your Lord and king adore;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:

*Refrain:* Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit  
and bow to his command and fall beneath his feet: *Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Steve Caughman and R.H. and Ruth Caughman by Viri, Todd, Brent, Charlotte, Jimmy, Jason, and Catherine.

**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. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

Mrs. Bailey Slice Parker, Music Director

Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director

Mr. Eric Abramson, Sexton

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