

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

**Wednesday Lenten Worship**  
**March 24, 2021**

**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 8:30 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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Almighty God, merciful Father:

**I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:12-14

### HOMILY

“To Fill the Pathless Days”

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

Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

**THE 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.**

**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**

*"Teach Us Your Ways"* Jordan, Keyes, Palmer, Wardell, and Zach  
CCLI Song # 7133715; CCLI License # 2440064

Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways. As we learn from one another,  
learn to love each other, teach us Your ways.

Teach us to give, teach us to give, give ourselves for one another,  
learn to help each other: teach us to give.

Teach us to weep, teach us to weep. Let us weep with one another,  
comfort one another: teach us to weep.

Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways. As we learn from one another,  
learn to love each other, teach us Your ways.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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, God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

God the Father, who fills the creation with abundance, + Christ the Son, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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<b>The Church Staff</b>	<b>Crisis Care Line: 808-6471</b>	<b>Website: <a href="http://www.sslc.org">www.sslc.org</a></b>
The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle		The Rev. Jason T. Antley
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life		Mrs. Bailey Slice Parker, Music Director
Mr. Tyler Meade, Organist		Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator		Mr. Eric Abramson, Sexton
Mr. Stephen Abbott, Seminarian		Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus
	The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation	

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