

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

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 1, 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@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 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!

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Our Lenten Season began with the Ash Wednesday extended confession of sin. Absolution was deferred until tonight on Maundy Thursday, which we receive communally. Our sermon coming first serves as an invitation for confession and absolution. With this accomplished, the last three days of Lent begin.

The name of this day is from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means command. It refers to Jesus' words at the Last Supper, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34) Jesus' love is demonstrated both in his example of servant-hood and in his gift of himself in Holy Communion.

At the end of Holy Communion, we strip all the worship items from the Altar and Chancel area and the Pastors' stoles and chasuble are placed at the foot of the cross. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his earthly power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. After this, no words are said as we leave in silence. There is no benediction or postlude. This gives us continuity with Good Friday. The transition is made from the Eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death.

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING LITURGY

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come that he should depart from this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And Jesus said;

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Those who have my commandments and keep them, love me. And those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and manifest myself to them.

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Neither height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

For the love of Christ compels us. May we be rooted and established in the love of Christ. May we be filled with all the fullness of God.

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' ⁹Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' ¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Of Happiness and Tears"

THE INSTRUCTION

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil - all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of His Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the word of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. It is in the gift of Holy Eucharist that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Lord Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples. Let us come before God to confess our need for cleansing.

(We observe silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of love and mercy,

you know the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts; you know our coming in and our going out. We confess to you all our sins - those things done and left undone. We have not loved one another as you have loved us. We have not served others as you have served us. Hear our cry, O Lord, Accept our repentance. Cleanse us, restore us, and lead us that we may love and serve in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. 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.

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 during this time apart 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 call the church office at (803) 359-6562 to contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds.

ANTHEM

"Where Charity and Love are Shown"

All Creation Sings 931

*Refrain: Where charity and love are shown, our God is there made known,
our God is there made known.*

One assembly at one table; one the cup, the bread, the wine; in one love we are companions, and in unity we dine. Brought together by the presence and the promise of God's Word, here in joy and in remembrance we receive our loving Lord.

At the table we are welcomed to the banquet from above. We recall the Lord's commandment that we live and grow in love. As the gifts of God are given, Jesus' body and his blood, so we give ourselves to others and we seek our neighbor's good. *Refrain*

This, the bread of life eternal; this, the saving cup we claim, draw us close within one fam'ly, make us one in Jesus' name. Let us tell the living story of his suff'ring and his pain, and proclaim the holy myst'ry: Christ has died, yet lives to reign. *Refrain*

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 al - so 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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O God of steadfast love, on this night we remember your great commandment to love one another. Let us always be mindful and thankful that Jesus' love is demonstrated both in his example of servant-hood and in his gift of himself in Holy Communion. As we now strip all the worship items from the Altar and Chancel area and lay vestments at the foot of the cross, let us never forget that on this night you were stripped of your earthly power and glory and given into the hands of your captors. May the power of your Spirit give us the endurance to persevere through the coming days, that our lives would continue to bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me and are so far from my cry, and from the words of my distress? ² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel. ⁴ Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. ⁶ But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying, ⁸ "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, if he delights in him." ⁹ Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, and kept me safe upon my mother's breast. ¹⁰ I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb. ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. ¹² Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. ¹³ They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. ¹⁵ My mouth is dried out like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave. ¹⁶ Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; they pierce my hands and my feet, I can count all my bones. ¹⁷ They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing. ¹⁸ Be not far away, O LORD; you are my strength; hasten to help me. ¹⁹ Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. ²⁰ Save me from the lion's mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls. ²¹ I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. ²² Praise the LORD, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. ²³ For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them. ²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. ²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live forever!" ²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. ²⁷ For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations. ²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. ²⁹ My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD's forever. ³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Father, when your Son was handed over to torture and felt abandoned by you, he cried out from the cross. Then death was destroyed, and life was restored. By his death and resurrection save the poor, lift up the downtrodden, break the chains of the oppressed, that your Church may sing your praises; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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. Tyler Meade, Organist

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