

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

**Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday**  
**April 4, 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](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 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!

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raises us up to new life. Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

**Amen.**

God of grace and glory,

**You have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. 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 sin, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"*

ELW 365

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

## **GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

## **EASTER RESPONSIVE LITURGY**

O Creating God, you have raised Jesus from death.

**We come in joy to hear the good news of life.**

O Living Christ, you walk among us as our risen Lord.

**We listen for your word for us on this Easter Sunday.**

O Spirit of Life, we experience your presence this morning of resurrection.

**Move among us with your power.**

God of grace and glory, set us free from our sin and empty out our tombs of despair.

**Enliven us with the proclamation that Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **THE SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

Mark 16:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

## SERMON

"This Feast Awaits"

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound"*

ELW 367

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:  
*"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!*

Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
*"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life*  
and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## **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 putting your offering in the offering plate at the doors of the church, 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            *"Glory to the Risen Lamb"*            arr. Neil Harmon, text by Jean Anne Shafferman

Hear the gospel news resounding: "Christ has suffered on the tree;  
streams of mercy are abounding; grace for all is rich and free."  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the Risen Lamb!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the great I am!

Grace is flowing like a river from the Savior's wounded side.  
Still it flows as fresh as ever; all may live, for Christ has died.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the Risen Lamb!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the great I am!

On the cross for our redemption, see Him all His lifeblood pour!  
There He wins our full salvation, dies that we may die no more.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the Risen Lamb!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Glory to the great I am! Glory to the great I am!

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

**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.

## 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.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who has brought us from death to life, fill you with great joy and bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*“Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”*

ELW 382

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!  
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;  
bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!  
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.  
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.  
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased;  
hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast. *Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to share the good news that Christ is Risen!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**EASTER LILIES** are given to the Glory of God and in honor/memory of those as printed within your bulletin insert. Lilies can be picked up after the 1:00 service today.

### **The Church Staff**

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

### **Crisis Care Line: 808-6471**

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation

### **Website: [www.sslc.org](http://www.sslc.org)**

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