

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

3rd Sunday of Easter
April 18, 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!

GATHERING MUSIC

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.

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.

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 of resurrection and hope for our lives.

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

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 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
²**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**
³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.
⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**
⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.
⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

SERMON

Pastor Jason

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,
from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

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) 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

"I Surrender All"

Victor Labenske

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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in D major (two sharps). The melody is more complex, featuring eighth, quarter, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

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

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor of MaMa's (Claudia DuBose) 83rd Birthday (4-13) by Kevin, Whitney, and James Egan, Sidney Brock, and Addie Warren.

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

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

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