

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

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 3, 2021

WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE!

We are so glad that you are worshipping with us! Here are a few helpful things to know:

The church's office hours are Monday through Thursday 8am-4pm. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help! The pastor is available by calling the church (359-6562), calling the Crisis Care Line after hours (808-6471), or emailing him (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). As you scroll down the homepage you will see SIX 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) **"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 5) **"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!"

Please don't forget to check us out on Facebook! God bless you! We love you! Hope to see you soon!

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

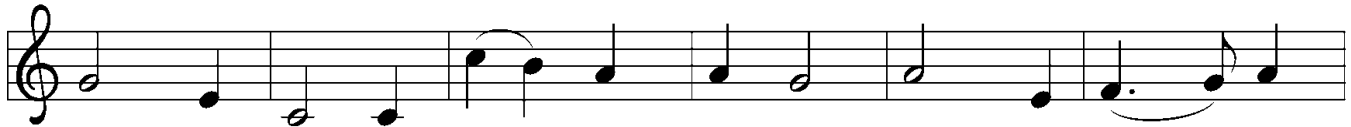
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and who dwells in our lives.

We need not look up to find God,

we need only look around, within and beyond ourselves, and in the eyes of another.

We need not listen for distant thunder to find God,

we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the rhythm of a heart beat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world

and who faithfully dwells in our lives.

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹O LORD our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**
human beings that you should care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
 with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**
you have put all things under their feet:
⁷all flocks and cattle,
 even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
⁹O LORD our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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 10:2-16

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

SERMON

Pastor Jason

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" (Vs. 1 & 5)

ELW 603

1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 Use us as a means of bless - ing; make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

OFFERING

At this time in the service we pause to reflect on all the gifts that God has given us and our calling to be generous stewards of those gifts for the sake of our ministry near and far in the name of Christ. Don't forget to support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, 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

"Bring Many Names"

ACS 1094

Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging ev'ry child, feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled: Hail and hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, gray with endless care, calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair: Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move, saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have: Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

THE 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) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has two measures: 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

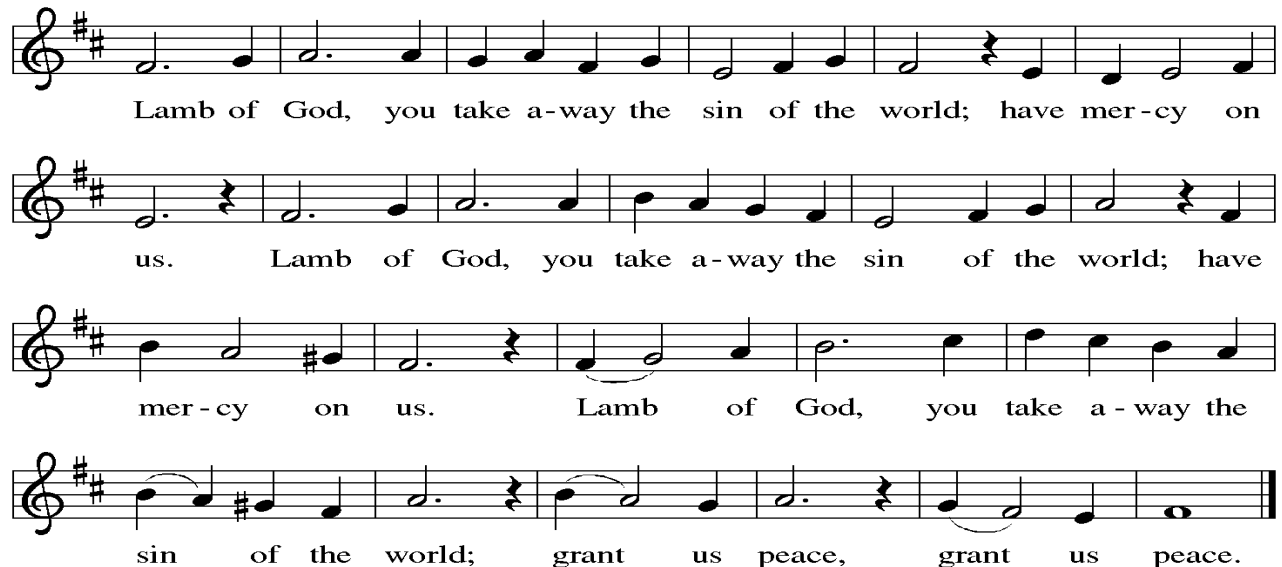
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

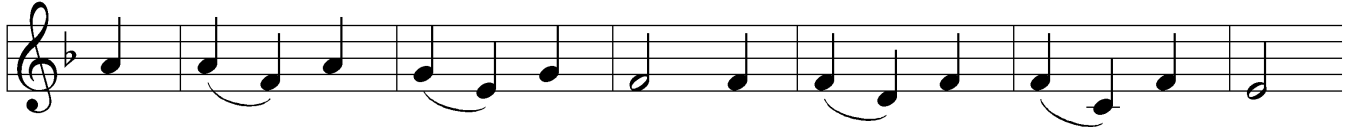
(As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

The communicant may say: "Amen.")

The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

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

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,
 2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty



in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
 with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:
 and teach us how to find the love from self set free;



Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
 our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -
 in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by



sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
 hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.
 this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my Mom and Dad, P.H. and Grace Caughman by Pat Caughman.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Otis Rawl, and Vernon Hester

Readers: Van Skipper

Communion Assistants: Jane Kennedy

Order of St. Stephen's: [A] Connor Fink [C] Cameron Moore [BB] Katie Moore

The Church Staff **Crisis Care Line: 808-6471** **Website: www.sslc.org**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley	Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Mrs. Bailey Slice Parker, Music Director	Mr. Tyler Meade Young, Organist
Mrs. Beth Haggard, Preschool Director	Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Mr. Eric Abramson, Sexton	Mr. Stephen Abbott, Seminarian
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton, Pastor for Welcome and Visitation	
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus	

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