

Josef Everette Clark, Sr.

**July 9, 1951 -
August 5, 2026**

**This Service and Bulletin are dedicated to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of**

Josef Everette Clark, Sr.

July 9, 1951 - August 5, 2026

August 13, 2026

2:00PM

PRELUDE

(We Stand)

THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE BY RESPONDING
WITH THE **BOLD** VERSES AND SINGING THE HYMNS.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother, Joe, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress"

ELW 504

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Joe. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(We Sit)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-5

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 30

¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. ² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³ O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. ⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." ⁷ By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. ⁸ To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: ⁹ "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?" ¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!" ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:1-7

¹ For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- ³ if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We stand to welcome the Holy Gospel and say together:)

THE VERSE

**Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever.
Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:27-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ²⁷ "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Ralph Hill

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

ELW 773



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

THE APOSTLES 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 INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

Hear us, Lord.

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

Hear us, Lord.

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant us grace to entrust Joe to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people.

Hear us, Lord.

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Joe to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Joe. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears. In Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our brother, Joe. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Visitation with refreshments will follow in the Social Hall

Pastors	The Rev. Jason T. Antley The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Organist	Susan Wilson
Crucifer	Shannon Burnett
Livestream Engineer	Tonya Reynolds
Ushers	Benjie Rhoad Pat Caughman Roy Welch
Honorary Pallbearers	Steve Bouknight, Brent Caughman, Todd Caughman, Tom Clark, Edwin Corley, Steve Glover, Paul Harman, Sammy Hendrix, David Herndon, Bart Snyder, Brett Snyder

THE PASCAL CANDLE is a reminder of the presence of Christ, the Light of the world, who brings His power to the darkness of our hearts, helping us to grieve, not as others do who have no hope, but in the sure and certain hope that is ours through His death and Resurrection.

THE PALL, which covers the urn, is a reminder of the baptismal garment God puts on God's children as they are welcomed into God's Holy Family. It also symbolizes that in Holy Baptism we have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ and given the gift of eternal life through His death and resurrection. In addition, the pall enables all urns to come equally before the altar, a reminder that God loves everyone, rich and poor alike.

LEXINGTON-Josef Everett Clark, Sr., of Lexington, S.C., died unexpectedly on August 5, 2026. He was born in Lexington, SC at Liverman Hospital on July 9, 1951. He is survived by his two beloved children, Josef Everett Clark, Jr. (Rhett) and Kathryn Clark Lever (Katy). Rhett and his wife, Emily O'Connor Clark, and two children Josef Everett, III (Connor) and Charlotte Marie (Charli) reside in Columbia. Katy and her husband, Stephen Thomas Lever, and children, Ryan Thomas (Ryan), Joshua Davis (Josh), and Ann-Reece Rebecca (Ann-Reece) reside in Lexington. He is also survived by his two sisters, Vera Clark Baker (Andy) of Houston, TX and Ellen Wingard Clark (Deb) of Brevard, NC. He is also the proud uncle of two nieces and a great-uncle of two nieces and one nephew. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Marianne (Mary) Honrath Clark and Everett Wingard (Wink) Clark, his nephew, Arthur Clark Baker, and his two closest friends, Stephen (Steve) Hampton Caughman and William (Bill) Deaderick Snyder.

Joe's parents met while "Wink" was serving in Germany during World War II and married in September 22, 1948. Marianne bravely came to the United States as a war bride through Ellis Island. His early childhood years were spent living in the upstate where his father was employed. When Joe was seven, Wink was tragically killed in a car accident, and the family moved back to Lexington to be near Wink's brothers and sisters. At this time, his family became members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, and there, he remained a member throughout his adult life. Joe attended Lexington One schools from first grade through high school, where he was a member of the football, basketball, and track and field teams. He graduated from Lexington High School in 1969 and chose to further his education at the University of South Carolina.

Joe began a career in the corrugated box industry at Inland Container. In 1975, he saw an industrious opportunity and bravely opened Action Container, Inc with three partners. This business, consisting of designing and manufacturing boxes, was very successful for over 25 years, until he and the owners, Edwin Corley and Karen Lucas, decided to close in 2002. At that time, Joe continued his career as a designer and salesman in the same industry with Unisource, Inc. He was later transferred to Florida where he resided for several years. Upon retirement, he returned to Lexington and lived in the house in which he grew up on Berly Street, with his dog and faithful companion, Sadie.

Joe was a member of both the Lexington Sertoma and Rotary Clubs and served as a board member on the Lexington County Gamecock Club. For years, Joe prepared and served meals on Wednesday nights at Sr. Stephen's. More recently, Joe was part of the Stagger Inn Breakfast Club and a monthly men's BBQ lunch group.

Joe's hobbies included hunting, fishing, golfing, cooking, doing sudoku and crossword puzzles, playing cards, and attending Gamecock sporting events. He always lived life to the fullest and loved being with his friends and family. His children and grandchildren were his pride and joy, and his most favorite past time was attending their weekly sporting events and extracurricular activities.

The family will greet friends after the service in the social hall. Memorials may be made to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 119 N. Church Street, Lexington, SC 29072.

