

# First Sunday in Lent



March 8, 2020 + 11:00am

Zion Lutheran Church  
Lexington, South Carolina

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP at ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We are glad you have come to worship this day!

### **We especially Welcome our Visitors and Guests!**

We hope you feel right at home here at Zion. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you. You are invited to fill out a Visitor's card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

**If you are seeking a church home**, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this community of faith and learning more about the mission and ministry of Zion. For more information about Zion Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, contact the church office, (803) 356-2297, [zionchurch@zionlexsc.com](mailto:zionchurch@zionlexsc.com) or visit our website, [zionlexsc.com](http://zionlexsc.com).

### **WORSHIP NOTES**



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** is offered to all baptized Christians who seek Christ's gift of grace. Visitors who receive Holy Communion in their home congregations are invited to share in this sacrament of grace. Gluten free bread is available to those with allergies. You may indicate this need to the pastor during communion distribution. Children who are not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.

**OUR STAFFED NURSERY** is available for young children during worship. The nursery is located through the narthex/lobby area and down the hall to the right.

**HYMNS** not printed in the bulletin are from the red WORSHIP hymnal in the pew rack.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.**

+ SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT +

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

God of heaven and earth, you come to us and make us your own. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*We kneel. Silence is kept for confession and meditation.*

Merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We acted when we knew better. We were still when we know we should have moved. Forgive us for the wrong we have done and for the good we have failed to do, and have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

*We stand.*

**SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.*

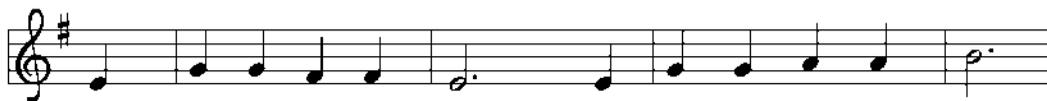
**GATHERING HYMN # 660**

*Lift High the Cross*

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 12:1-4**

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

<sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Young children are invited forward at this time.*

*Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3 through 3rd Grade may go to Children's Church. Meet the Children's Church leaders at the red door at the back of the church. Children will return from Children's Church during the offering.*

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*sung two times*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL READING

**John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has

ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.  
<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Pastor Nathan Gragg

*We stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY # 323**

*God Loved the World*

## **APOSTLES CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**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**

*Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We sit.*

## **OFFERING**

*We share our gifts for those in need and for the mission of the church.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*God So Loved the World*

*We stand.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN # 188

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

As Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray: **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

God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Come and receive these gifts of grace. **Amen.**

*We sit.*

### AGNUS DEI



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Christ welcomes you to this feast of the baptized!*

*We receive communion today around the Altar rail. As the ushers direct you, proceed down the side aisles, in turn take a spot at the rail kneeling or standing as you are comfortable. Return to your seat by the center aisle.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*We stand.*

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which strengthens us in our weariness and sustains us in the wilderness. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN # 324**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**



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## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Nathan Gragg
Director of Music	Julie Branham
Assisting Minister	Darlene Weight
Reader	Michael Kohn
Communion Assistants	Lee Caulder, Katie McKinley
Crucifer	Elizabeth Grant
Acolyte	Cooper Grant
Ushers	Mary Nell Panyard, Thomas Panyard, Steve Wingard, Mark Wingard
Chancel and Sacraments	Iris and James Harmon
Children's Church	Carol Hunter
Nursery	Althea Hendrix
Offering Counters	Laura and Bob McCombs, Diane and Charles Richardson



## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

Assisting Minister	Darlene Weight
Reader	Eileen Leaphart
Communion Assistants	Will Reeside, Steve Shumpert
Crucifer	Hannah Elrod
Acolyte	Emerson Fite
Ushers	Mary Nell Panyard, Thomas Panyard, Steve Wingard, Mark Wingard
Chancel and Sacraments	Iris and James Harmon
Children's Church	Wendy Nesmith
Nursery	Jan Corley
Offering Counters	Laura and Bob McCombs, Diane and Charles Richardson



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