

Seventh Sunday of Easter



May 28, 2017 + 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 or visit our website, 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.

+ SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER +

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ, by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

We kneel. Silence is kept for confession and meditation.

Faithful and just God, **we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear and bound by the ways that lead to death. We have sinned against you. We have not believed your good news. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you, now and forever. **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 # 322 (verses 1, 4-7)

Oh, Love, How Deep

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ 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 all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through 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

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

PSALM 68:4-10, 32-35

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;

I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!

⁵**In your holy habita- | tion, O God,**

you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;

but the rebels shall live in | desert places.

⁷**O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,**

when you marched | through the wilderness,

⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain,

at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,

at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.

⁹**You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;**

you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

¹⁰Your people found their | home in it;

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.

³²**Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;**

sing praises | to the Lord.

³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;

you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.

³⁴**Ascribe pow- | er to God,**

whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.

³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,

giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!



SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John, the seventeenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

We sit.

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.*

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 656

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

We stand.

NICENE CREED

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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

We sit.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We share our gifts for those in need and for the church's mission.

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of

all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble

with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Let us pray. Be known to us, O Lord, **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. 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.

This musical score is for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains '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 you thanks and praise ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

This musical score is for the hymn 'Sanctus'. It consists of four staves of music in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff contains 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff contains 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you . . . through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you 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

The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God. **Amen.**

We sit.

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Christ welcomes you to this feast of the baptized!
We receive communion today by intinction at the head of the center aisle.
As the ushers direct you, proceed down the center aisle in two lines.
Hold the bread given to you and continue toward the side aisle nearest you
to receive the chalice into which you may dip your bread.
Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

We stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF FOOD FOR FEEDING MINISTRIES

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN # 855

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Presiding Minister | Pastor Nathan Gragg |
| Director of Music | Julie Branham |
| Assisting Minister | Darlene Weight |
| Reader | Craig Balch |
| Communion Assistants | Eileen Leaphart, Sara Rymer |
| Crucifer | Macy Hunt |
| Acolyte | Hailey Wingard |
| Ushers | Bob and Laura McCombs, Charles and Dianne Richardson |
| Chancel and Sacraments | James and Iris Harman, Janice Face |
| Coffee & Fellowship | Congregation Council |
| Children's Church | Nikki Harmon |
| Nursery | Betsy and Riley Burn |
| Offering Counters | Tom and Mary Nell Panyard, Karyn Stoneberg |

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Assisting Minister | Bridgett Ridgell |
| Reader | Eileen Leaphart |
| Communion Assistants | Sue Anderson, Mary Nell Panyard |
| Crucifer | Riley Burn |
| Acolyte | Sydney Branham |
| Ushers | Randy McCoy, Bryson Scott, Tom and Mary Nell Panyard |
| Chancel and Sacraments | Steve and Janice Sult |
| Children's Church | |
| Nursery | Althea Hendrix |
| Offering Counters | Randy and Beverly McCoy, Dave and Katie McKinley |

God Doesn't Do Magic

It happens in the movies all the time: just as we are made to believe that all hope is lost and evil will triumph, suddenly the hero discovers a mystical phrase that will give him supernatural strength to defeat the enemy. Or the heroine finds a charmed sword that gives her the power to do the same. Believing in movie magic can be a welcome respite from the grind of everyday life. Knowing an enchanted word that keeps us impervious to harm sounds incredible—who wouldn't want that? Those moments may work in the movies, but they don't happen in real life.

Don't confuse Jesus' words in today's gospel with a magic spell or incantation. As Jesus prays for his disciples, he knows the suffering they will soon endure because they have come to believe in him. There is no way to avert what they will undergo; each one of his disciples is headed toward a certain and painful death just as Jesus is. Jesus knows these things cannot be prevented, but that isn't the point of his prayer.

Being in the world means bad things will happen to us. Crosses aren't special charms that keep evil away, and wearing one won't keep you from harm. Tragedies take place, people get sick, bullies victimize, the innocent get blamed. There are no magic words to prevent hardships or disasters. When Jesus prays for the Father to protect those who belong to him, he isn't asking God to keep those bad things from happening. The name of God was never intended to create force fields around us keeping bad things out. God and the one who comes in God's name make us one together with them. In this unity, life always triumphs in the end.



Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church
226 Corley Mill Road
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 356-2297
zionlexsc.com

Rev. Nathan T. Gragg, Pastor
Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton, Youth Director
Walt@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham, Director of Music
Julie@zionlexsc.com

Starr Corley, Office Administrator
Starr@zionlexsc.com

Steve Shumpert, Church Sexton
Steve@zionlexsc.com

Sam Mailleue, 2nd Year Seminarian