**First Sunday in Lent**



**March 5, 2017 + 11:00 am**

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.

**ALL HYMNS FOR WORSHIP** are from the red WORSHIP hymnal in the pew rack.

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

**+ FIRST 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.**

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, **you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.** **We confess that we have strayed from you** **and turned aside from your way.** **We fail in love, neglect justice,** **and ignore your truth.** **Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.** **Create in us clean hearts** **for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 # 326 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey***

**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**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

3:1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

### PSALM 32

Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
  and whose sin is | put away!
2**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,**
  **and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
3While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
  because of my groaning | all day long.
4**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;**
  **my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
  I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

 Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.
6**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;**
  **when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
7You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
  you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
8**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**
  **I will guide you | with my eye.** R
9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
  who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”
10**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;**
  **but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
  shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

*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.*

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *sung two times*

**GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**!

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON** Pastor Nathan Gragg

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me***

**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:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*We sit.*

**OFFERING**

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

**VOCAL SOLO** *Wayfarin’ Stranger*

 Jonathan Gragg, tenor



*We stand.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. 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**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy . . . O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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**

Return to God with all your heart. Come and be filled with the goodness of God. **Amen.**

*We sit.*

**AGNUS DEI**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*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.*

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN #** **624 *Jesus, Still Lead On***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**+ SERVING TODAY +**

Presiding Minister Pastor Nathan Gragg

Assisting Minister Craig Balch

Reader Rayna Kleckley

Communion Assistants Burns Corley, Darlene Weight

Crucifer Connor Burn

Acolyte Huntington Cotten

Ushers Tom and Mary Nell Panyard, Mark Wingard, Joe Wingard

Chancel and Sacraments Althea Hendrix, Darlene Weight

Children’s Church Nikki Harmon

Nursery Jan Corley

Offering Counters Laura and Bob McCombs

Director of Music Julie Branham



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