

Fourth Sunday of Easter



May 7, 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.

+ **FOURTH 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 # 883

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:38-47

Peter said to the people, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM 23

The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

**⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

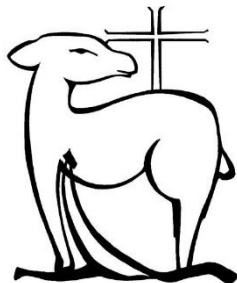
SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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



We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

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

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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 # 778

The Lord's My Shepherd

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

We stand.

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each staff is in the treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the 'Sanctus'. Each staff is in the treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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

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 # 789

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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	Emerson Fite (8:30), Sue Anderson (11:00)
Reader	Sam Mailleue
Communion Assistants	Roger Anderson, Dianne Richardson
Crucifer	Elizabeth Grant
Acolyte	Cooper Grant
Ushers	Bob and Laura McCombs, Charles and Dianne Richardson
Chancel and Sacraments	Janice Face, James and Iris Harman
Coffee & Fellowship	Grant, Riley, and Sult families
Children's Church	Nikki Harmon
Nursery	Abby and Tyler Beard
Offering Counters	Tom and Mary Nell Panyard, Karyn Stoneburg

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

Assisting Minister	Sue Anderson
Reader	Anna Reeside
Communion Assistants	Carla Fallaw, Darlene Weight
Crucifer	Libby Branham
Acolyte	Sydney Branham
Ushers	Bob and Laura McCombs, Charles and Dianne Richardson
Chancel and Sacraments	James and Iris Harman, Janice Face
Coffee & Fellowship	
Children's Church	Nikki Harmon
Nursery	Dawn Keene
Offering Counters	Tom and Mary Nell Panyard, Karyn Stoneburg

May 7, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Life-Giving Voice

“We’re sorry ma’am, but your moving truck has been stolen.” She couldn’t believe what she was hearing. Nearly all her earthly possessions were on that truck! “It was stolen off our lot and dumped along a highway. They dug through the last few feet of the trailer looking for anything valuable, so things are scattered on the ground. Several things are broken.”

Discovering you have been robbed is a horrible feeling. Jesus compares the stealing of property, such as sheep, to the stealing of our very lives and souls. Many voices in our world seek to steal our attention, our resources, even our selves, for their own benefit. And in the process they suck the life out of us.

Sometimes we’ve even been a thief—taking from others in many ways for our own needs, rather than considering the needs of others. Sometimes the thief is that voice in our head that tells us we’re not worth much or that cuts down our confidence. That thief kills our spirit. But Jesus came so that the world might have life, “and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

Martin Luther in his explanations of the Ten Commandments wisely includes life-giving ways to live them out. They become not only prohibitions of death-dealing behavior, but ways to promote abundant life. So we’re commanded not to kill, steal, or covet. Instead we help, support, preserve, and honor others.

Listen for God’s voice today and for the abundant life Christ is calling you toward. Listen for the ways you are being called to partner with God in bringing about that abundant life for all. May the Spirit’s breath of life fill you and restore you today.

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