

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2018 - 10:45 AM



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

G.I.F.T. Zone Opportunity For Parents & Young Children

We introduce our kid-friendly worship experience, located in the left-hand transept area of the main sanctuary. For families who wish to take advantage of the G.I.F.T. Zone, there is child-friendly worship furniture plus adult chairs for parents. Feel free to sit in the special area throughout the service with your child - or come to the area with your child following the Children's Message. During this middle section of the service, Deacon Lexanne Graves will be in the area to guide parents and children through activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way to keep children engaged in worship with the whole congregation - and learn the liturgy until they are able to worship in the pews for the entire service. We offer the G.I.F.T. Zone so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for those yet unable to benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities.)



Kid Friendly Worship Experience



**Growing
In
Faith
Together**

Living Springs Lutheran Church

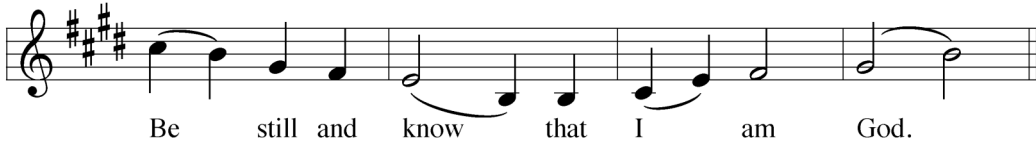
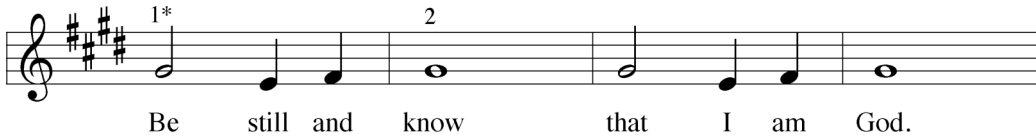
4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

GATHERING MUSIC

"Be Still and Know"

As we gather, we remain seated and join in singing to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.



Text: Psalm 46:10; Music: John L. Bell; © 1989 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Baptismal Anniversaries: Katie Prizer (2/19), Andrew Tilton (2/21); Rocky Berger (2/24)

(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Merciful God,

People: **Our will is handcuffed 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. For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, look to the ✙ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

People: **Amen.**

ENTRANCE SONG

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW 504

APOSTOLIC GREETING

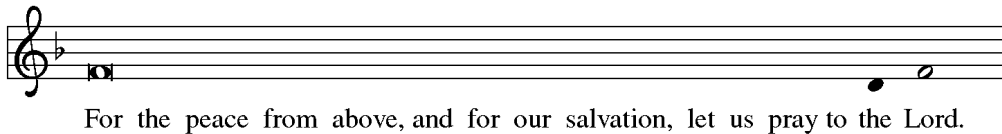
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

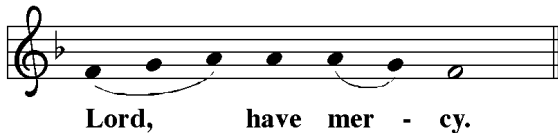
KYRIE



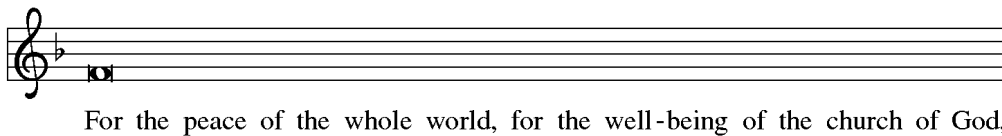
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



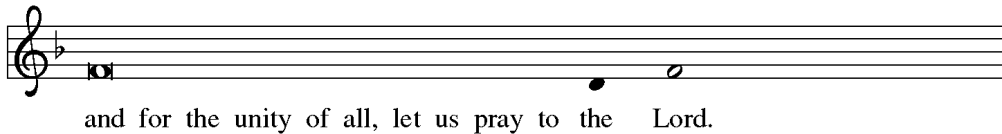
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



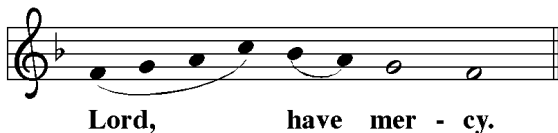
Lord, have mer - cy.



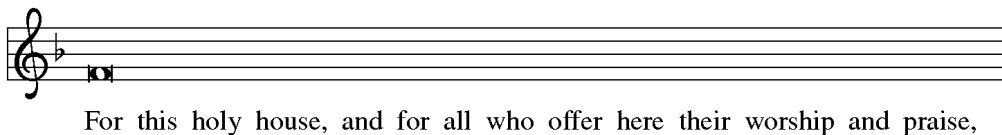
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



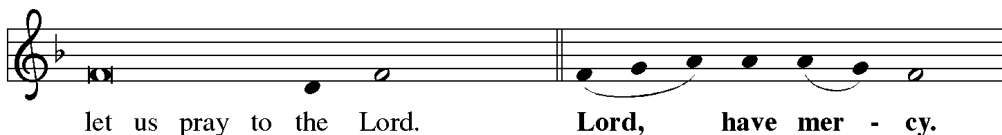
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



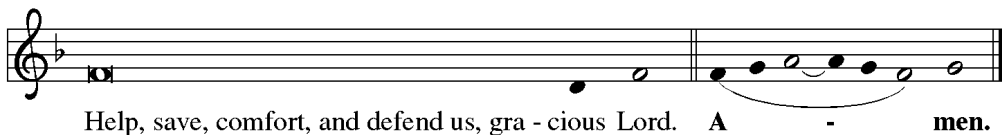
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

Children and young people gather on the steps. Toddlers may be accompanied by parents. All may bring forward coins or dollars for the Lenten bucket collection (Harvest Hope Food Bank). Following the message, young children and parent(s) are invited to the G.I.F.T. Zone for special activities that help young ones participate in worship through the middle portion of the service. As the children gather, we sing:

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

(Text by Anna B. Warner, ELW 595)

FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." (*Genesis 9:8-17*)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

Lector: To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

**People: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Lector: Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**People: Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

Lector: Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**People: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Lector: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**People: You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

Lector: You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**People: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 Peter.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. *(1 Peter 3:18-22)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (*Mark 1:9-15*)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

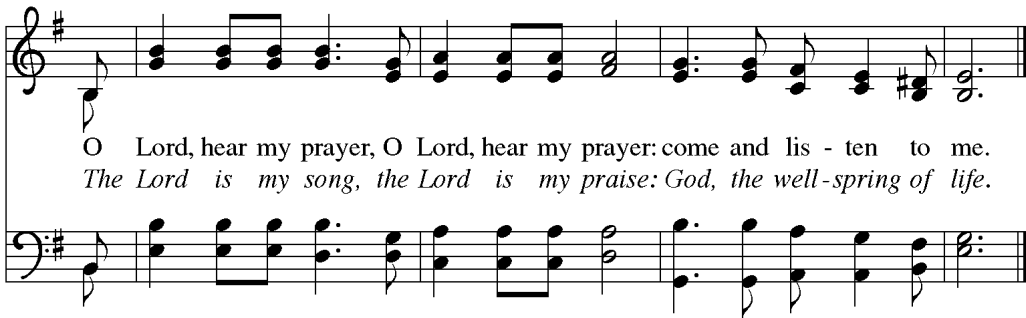


At the sounding of the chime, we kneel.

CALL TO PRAYER



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé community, adapt.; Music: Hear My Prayer, Jacques Berthier © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

SILENT PRAYER

During the time of silent prayer, you are invited to come forward and place your prayer slip in the prayer basket at the center of the congregation. Once the chime has sounded, the prayer basket is taken to the prayer station beneath the Lenten cross (which is formed from the blackened trunk of our Chrismon Tree.) We then continue with the spoken prayers.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Assist: We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, for those who grieve, and for those who are ill. We pray especially for: *Maria Sorial; Sara Levitt; Janet Bate; Stephanie Joyner; Bunie Talbert; Sam Gordon; George, Sr./Margaret Donovan; Joe Tripi; John McDonald; Megan Gabbard; family of Ronnie Cooper; family of John Goiser; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud....*God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Pastor: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially Martin Luther, whom we commemorate today. As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Pastor: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

We are seated

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

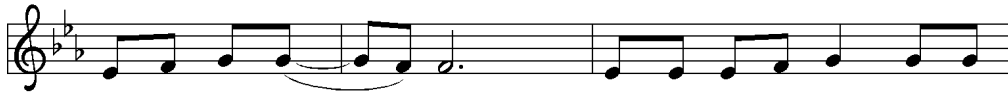
MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

We stand as able

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: 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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me. "

LORD'S PRAYER

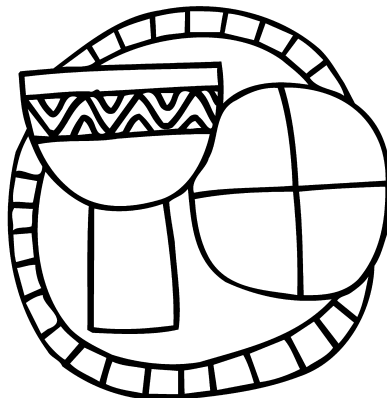
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **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

Pastor: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



We are seated

LAMB OF GOD



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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they offer you the elements. Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). In response to the words, "Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you," each worshipper may respond with, "**Amen.**" If you require a **gluten free wafer**, please let your worship assistant know so they can accommodate you. Each chalice contains two compartments: wine is located in the larger compartment, while **alcohol-free grape juice** is located in the smaller compartment for those who require it. After receiving the elements, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the rail for meditation and prayer (others may simply fill in the open spaces). **Children** who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a special blessing. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325



We stand after all have received communion

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING & PRAYER

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

People: **Amen**

Assist: 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.

People: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Lead Me, Guide Me"

ELW 768

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)

DISMISSAL

Assist: Do Justice! Love Kindness! Walk Humbly with God!
Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



✝ **COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY** ✝

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT:

Sharing the Wilderness

Have you ever experienced the disappointment of coming down from a “mountaintop” experience? Away at a camp or retreat you experience something profound, something that feels like it will transform your life forever. But when you return to everyday life you feel surrounded by obstacles to lasting change. Sometimes our baptismal life as Christians can feel like this. In worship, gathered with sisters and brothers in faith, we can experience God’s presence, but then we go back out into our everyday lives and everything becomes more challenging.

Mark’s gospel shows us that even Jesus experienced mountaintops and valleys in his spiritual life. Jesus moves very quickly from splashing in the baptismal waters of the Jordan River and receiving signs and words of divine encouragement into a lonely wilderness where for the next forty days he is tempted and tested. It is with both experiences behind him, the highs and the lows, that Jesus begins his ministry and his bold proclamation that God’s kingdom has come near.

As we gather for the season of Lent, we are reminded that in our own baptisms God’s kingdom has come near. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Those who gather for worship each week will be a mixed group—some experiencing that strong affirmation, some feeling lost in the wilderness, and others somewhere between. Yet Christ’s proclamation is for all. God’s kingdom has come near. God’s promises hold true for us all no matter what we are feeling any particular week. In worship, we both affirm those around us and receive the gift of their affirmation. We gather both to give and to receive Jesus’ proclamation.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Christopher Girardeau

LECTOR

Jan Berger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Audrey Turnmire

Trish Davidson

USHERS

Randy Masad

Leslie Bloss

Lauren Bloss

Mike Davidson

INSIDE GREETER

Cathy Lowman

ACOLYTE

Wes Levitt

CRUCIFER

Steve Bloss

TORCHBEARERS

Pat Bartucca

Gail Buchanan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Eric

NAME TAGS

Nancy Baldwin

MUGGER

Laura Turnmire

REFRESHMENTS

Ashley Ramsey

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Hayes

COUNTERS

Mike Grimmer

Mark Stuart

Karen Kranz

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Gay Walter



Lent Seasonal Emphasis

Going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."
- Matthew 26:39

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office: (803) 736-0661 – Preschool: 736-0776

E-Mail: contact@livingspringscolumbia.org
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Ministers: People of Living Springs

Ministry Staff:

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George Donovan, Jr., Dir. of Music & Worship	george@livingspringscolumbia.org
Deac. Lexanne Graves, Min. of Faith & Life (Children & Families)	lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org
Christopher Girardeau, Min. of Faith & Life (Sr. Youth & Young Adults) ..	christopher@livingspringscolumbia.org
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Sherry Forsgren, Bookkeeper	sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org
Mark & Laura Cunningham, Food Ministry	laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org
Prayer Ministry	prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP THIS DAY!

We greet all who worship in the name of the Risen Savior!

May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone, through the grace shown to the world in Jesus.

We gather as a community of disciples. Our center is Jesus Christ, and we are here to know and share the blessing of his forgiving, healing hand.

If you have any questions about our congregation, please call 736-0661, drop by our office (M - F 8:30-4:30) or visit our website at www.livingspringscolumbia.org.

WELCOME GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to fill out the blue slip in your bulletin and/or sign the welcome book in the narthex. New members are always welcome into our congregation. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the office (736-0661) or Pastor Eric (917-2749).

BULLETIN BLUE SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Members, please complete at least one blue slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of your communing.

SEASONAL NAME TAG – In order to show hospitality, we ask everyone to stop by the table under the portico and complete a name tag with our seasonal scripture verse. The tags allow everyone to use names as we share the Peace - and allow communion ministers to speak your name (*please make sure your name is visible when you come to the altar rail*).

RESTROOMS – are located in the Administration Building on both levels. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Main level restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations. For your child's safety, please accompany them when they leave the Sanctuary to use the restrooms.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS - are now available, please see an usher or greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – The ushers have headsets which will amplify the sound for you. Please return to an usher or leave in the pew at the conclusion of the service.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS & ALCOHOL-FREE GRAPE JUICE– are available during communion, for those who desire either.

G.I.F.T. ZONE - is a special area in our worship space for parents and young children who wish to worship together with more child-friendly furniture and special resources to utilize during worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS – are distributed during the children's sermon.

NURSERY – is available for infants-3 years old during the 10:45 Worship Service; located downstairs in the preschool in the Education Building. Greeters/Ushers will be happy to assist you.

CHILD SAFETY – is very important to us, so we ask at least 1 adult to accompany your child if he/she leaves the Sanctuary during worship. Please do not allow children to play on the playground without parental supervision. During the week, church doors are kept locked to maintain security for our Preschool. Please ring the intercom by the office doors to check in.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME – is held each week following the 8:15 service and prior to the 10:45 service, inside the education building.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the bulletin blue sheet and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.