

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • April 21, 2024 •

4th Sunday of Easter



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *O Blessed Spring*

page 20

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

L We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG: *The King of Love*

All Stand and Sing

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

GREETING

P Siblings in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written for two parts: Leader and Assembly. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a Leader part on the top staff and an Assembly part on the bottom staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have For the reign of God, and for mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. For your Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy."

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
 Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the fourth chapter of Acts.

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

A reading from First John, the third chapter.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows

everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

All Stand & Sing

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to

my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Have No Fear*

All Stand & Sing



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

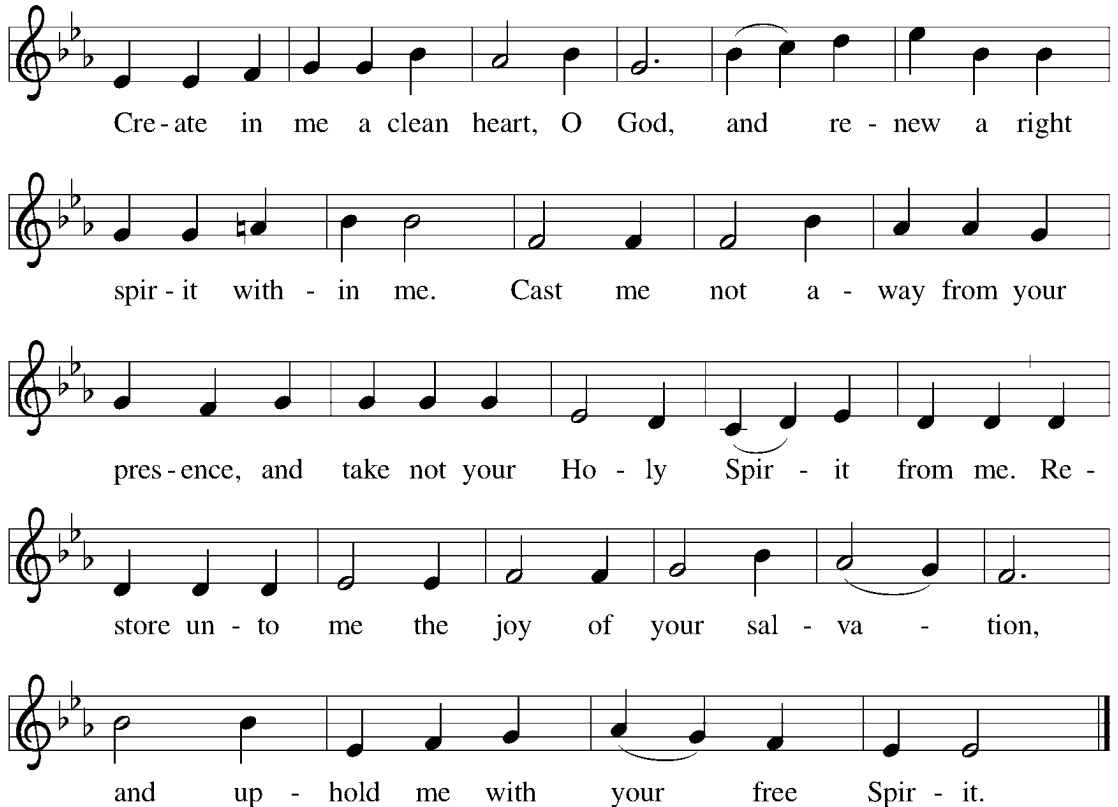
C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
A QR Code is available on page 17 to give your offering online

Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE:

All Stand & Sing



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

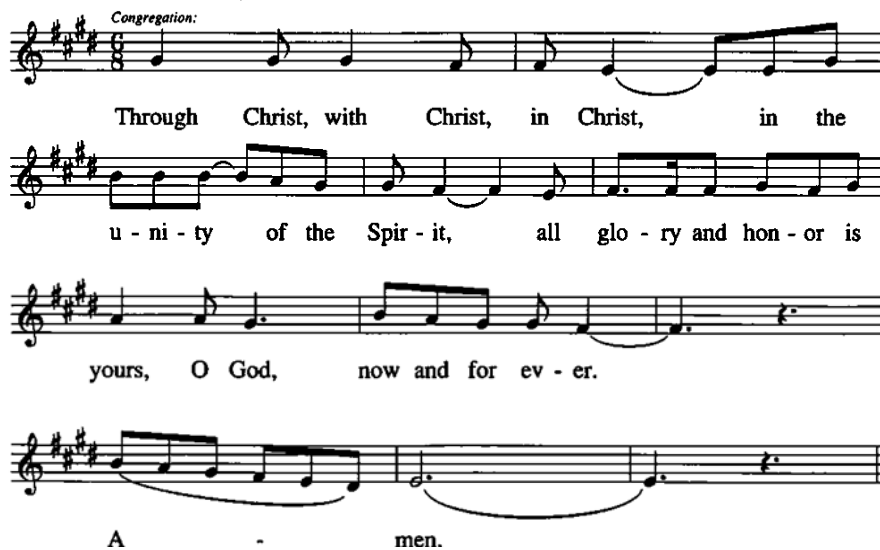


Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

Congregation:



Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may return to your pew to eat and drink, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.

LAMB OF GOD

All Sing

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world:
have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Gabriel's Oboe*

Instrument Solo

COMMUNION HYMN: *Shepherd Me, O God*

All Sing on Refrain

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life.

Leader



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
 lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.


Leader



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C Shepherd God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

All Stand & Sing

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,
in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;
He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Ja 895-1984
Arr. © Oxford University Press.

SENDING

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Hymn to Joy*

Burkhardt

*Altar flowers are given by Rochell and Danny Potter in In honor of Alejandra Villalpando’s Birthday

*Special thanks to Leslie Crist, Soloist.

*Special thanks to Eric Myers, Oboist.

*Special thanks to Julia Gunter, Flutist.

Sunday, April 21st

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

5:30 pm – Adult Handbells

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir

7:30 pm – Chamber Choir

Monday, April 22nd

Noon – Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 23rd

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon

Give your offering online!



If you’d like to give an offering but don’t carry money with you, simply scan the QR code above and you’ll be able to give through an online form.

Meet the Summer Mission Trip Travelers!

Holy Comforter is excited to send all of our active youth group members and adults to the Dwelling and the Youth Gathering this summer! June 12th-16th, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem and The Dwelling. July 16th-20th is our second trip to New Orleans where we are excited to experience the Youth Gathering. We are spotlighting each traveler over the upcoming months.



Hi, I’m Gabriel! I’m 11 and a 6th grader at Cramerton middle school. I like Legos, video games, and dinosaurs. I also like art and band, which I currently take for encore classes. I’m currently in HCY and I help in church by being an acolyte. This will be my first time attending the Dwelling and I look forward to seeing new things, helping those experiencing homelessness, and meeting new people. I will only be going to the Dwelling, and not to New Orleans, but I look forward to going in future years!

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster



"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

O Blessed Spring

Choir only

O blessed spring, where Word and sign Embrace us into Christ the Vine,
Here Christ enjoins each one to be A branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must, We breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ our souls take wing, And trust the promise of the spring.

Cong. and choir

$\text{♩} = c. 48$

Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree. Be
praised for this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and
wa - ter thus re - vive And join us
to your Tree of Life.

Text: "O Blessed Spring", copyright © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien. Used by permission.

Music: *Berglund*, copyright © 1994 Robert Buckley Farlee. Used by permission.

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