

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

## Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day



**GATHERING MUSIC:** *Easter Medley*

Catawba Valley Brass

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Alleluia*

Chamber Choir

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.**

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

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING SONG: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## GREETING

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

**C** **And also with you.**

# KYRIE

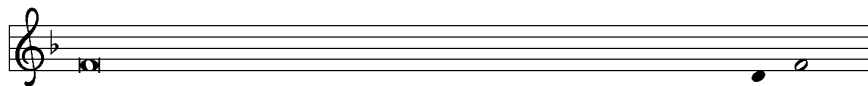
*Leader*

*Congregation*



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

*L*



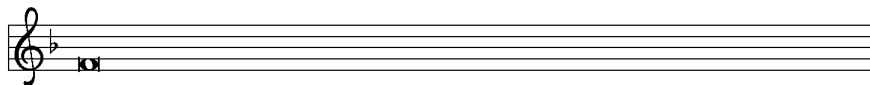
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*

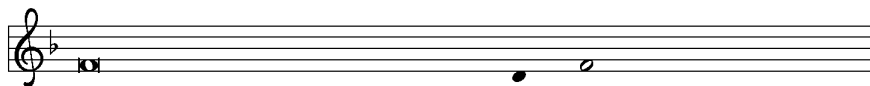


**Lord, have mer - cy.**

*L*



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



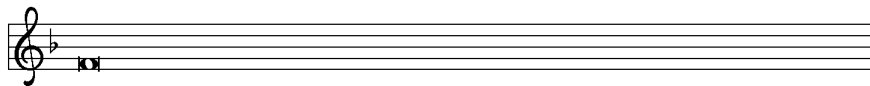
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*

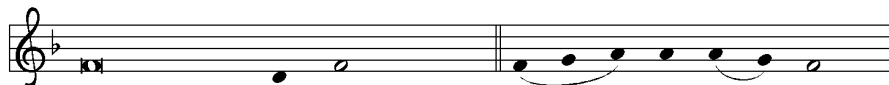


**Lord, have mer - cy.**

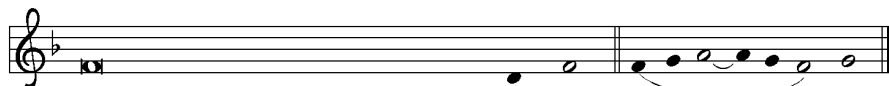
*L*



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.**

# THIS IS THE FEAST

*All Sing Refrain*

*Higher voices sing odd verses, Lower voices sing even*



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



al-le - lu - ia, 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.



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



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



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



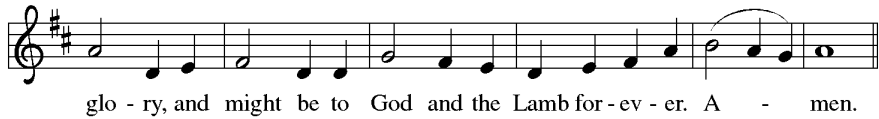
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



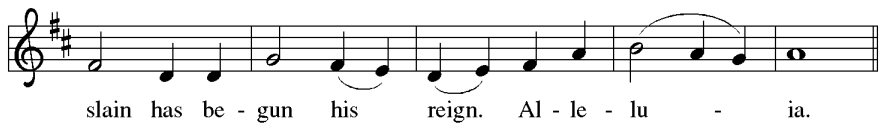
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 10:34-43

A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians.

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and

sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

(The congregation stands and turns to face the processional cross.)

**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. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

**Mark 16:1-8**

**L** The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

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

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

SERMON

Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ Has Arisen*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
and in its con - quest his might did show.  
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."



*Refrain*

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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 Music: Richard Kuykendall  
 Lyrics: Richard Kuykendall  
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## NICENE CREED

**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

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.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower

peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. 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: *Joy to the Heart***

Church Choir

### **Stanza 1 (Choir)**

Look there! the Christ, our Brother, comes  
resplendent from the gallows tree  
and what he brings in his hurt hands  
is life on life for you and me.

And Congregation

(Congregation stands & sings on stanza 4)

#### *Refrain*

Joy! joy! joy to the heart  
all in this good day's dawning!

### **Stanza 2 (Choir)**

Good Jesus Christ inside his pain  
looked down Golgotha's stony slope  
and let the blood flow from his flesh  
to fill the springs of living hope. (Refrain)

### **Stanza 3 (Choir)**

Good Jesus Christ, our Brother, died  
in darkest hurt upon the tree  
to offer us the worlds of light  
that live inside the Trinity. (Refrain)

### **Stanza 4 (Congregation and Choir)**

4. Look there! the Christ, our Broth-er, comes re-splen-dent from the-gal-lows  
tree and what he brings in his hurt hands is life on life for- you and me.

**Refrain**  
Joy! joy!- joy- to the heart all in this good day's- dawn - ing!  
Joy! joy!- joy- to the heart all in this good day's- dawn - ing!

## 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.**

## DIALOGUE

*Leader*

*Congregation*

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

*L*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

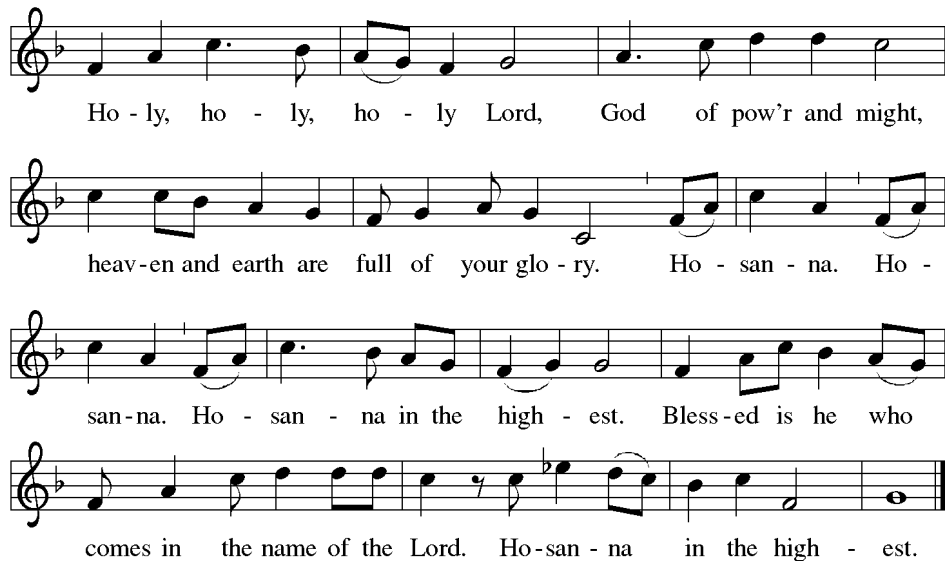
*C*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.

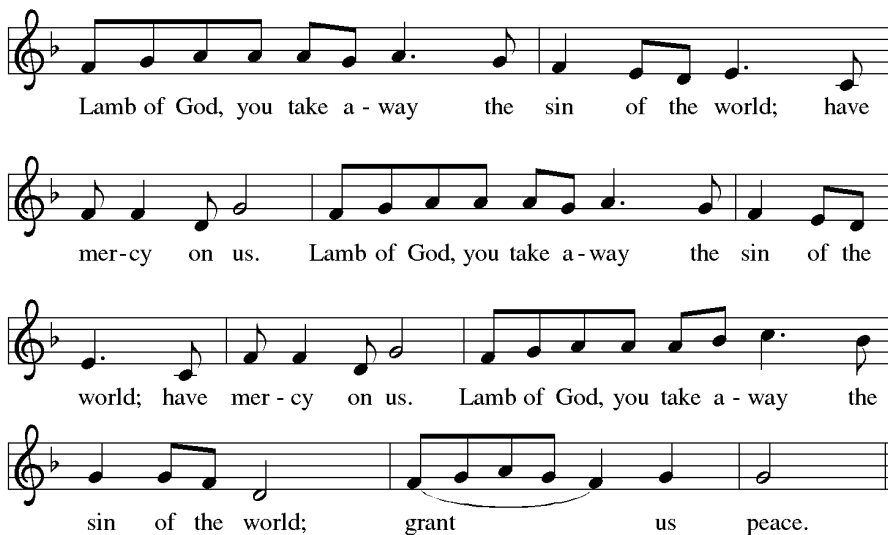
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## 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.**

## 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.

## COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace. You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able. You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink. You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Catawba Valley Brass  
*From Death to Life Eternal* Handbell Choir

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

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

**C** **Shepherding 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: *Christ is Risen, Alleluia*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;  
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay  
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;  
 now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
 See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## SENDING

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

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE:** *This Joyful Eastertide*

Catawba Valley Brass

\*Special thank you to our Lector, Anne Reese.

\*The altar flowers were given by Julia Gunter and by Janet Achor, both to the glory of God.

**We welcome the members of Catawba Valley Brass:**

Joe Elliot – Trumpet  
Nickey Horner – Trumpet  
Ted Neely – Trombone  
Hailey Baskin – French Horn  
Patrick Haymore - Tuba

Easter Lilies are given:

In Memory of:

Brian & Janet Achor in memory of Ron & Shirley Achor  
Brian & Janet Achor in memory of Elmer & Mary Ann Troutman  
Jim & Jan Buell in memory of Carmen Buell  
Jim & Jan Buell in memory of Bob Haubenreich  
Greg Byrum in memory of Mr. Olin S Byrum Jr.  
Greg Byrum in memory of Amy Byrum McKay  
Jill, Tyler, & Erin Cassel in memory of “Grandma the Great” Robinson  
Jill, Erin, & Tyler Cassel in memory of Poppy Michael  
John & Leslie Crist in memory of Rita & Ray Broome, and Bill and Rosa Crist  
Dr. Raul & Jo Anne de la Vega in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega  
Dr. Raul & Jo Anne de la Vega in memory of Dr. and Mrs. William L. Kannapel  
Suzanne Fairbairn in memory of Ken Biddick and Logan Fairbairn  
Barbara & Jim Manson in memory of their parents, Mildred and Holmes Adams &  
Jane and Robert Manson  
Debbie Mendez in memory of Ruth Lyerly  
Debbie Mendez in memory of Maria and Andres Mendez  
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice and Mark Lyerly  
Gina & Travis Rhyne in memory of Bobby Ray Moody (2 flowers)

In Honor of:

Greg Byrum in honor of Libby Byrum  
Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby  
Greg Cline in honor of Faye & Warren Heller  
John & Leslie Crist in honor of their grandchildren Wyatt & Brooklyn Sutzenfield, Max & Olivia  
McCotter, and Patrick & Jacob Crist  
Jimmy & Ellie Holloway in honor of Jenn, Micah, Gabriel, & Nathaniel Kearney  
Tim and Shelia Kelly in honor of their children and grandchildren  
Leigh & Shari Leverenz in honor of Emmaleigh & Jackson Bears  
Nathan and Stephanie Sage to the glory of God

If we have unintentionally made any errors, or failed to include a mention please contact the church office. Thank you!

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem and The Dwelling. July 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 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 Abigale, I am 14 years old, and in 9th grade at South Point High School. In my free time I do art, whether that's drawing, painting, or even writing. I participated in the Advent Exhibit the last two years. I also enjoy cooking and baking. I am active in HCY and have even brought cupcakes to share. I have not yet been to The Dwelling, but I think it will be a good, memorable, and humbling experience. I am very excited to work with my community and others. This is my first Youth Gathering too! I'm excited to experience New Orleans and learn new things.



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

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

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster