

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 7, 2024 •

## Second Sunday of Easter



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *This Joyful Eastertide*

Dutch Folk Tune

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

**C Amen.**

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

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

L 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.

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

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

L 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 HYMN: *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## GREETING

**L** 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


*All Sing*

*L* 

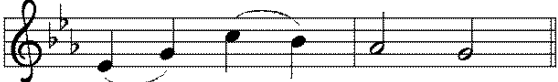
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*C* 


Lord, have mercy.

*L* 

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

*C* 

Lord, have mercy.

*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 mercy.

*L* 

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



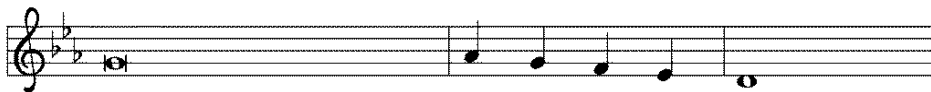
let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

L



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

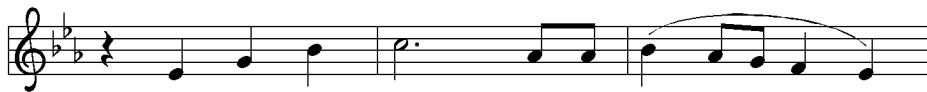
C



A - men, a - men.

### GLORIA

*All Sing*



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



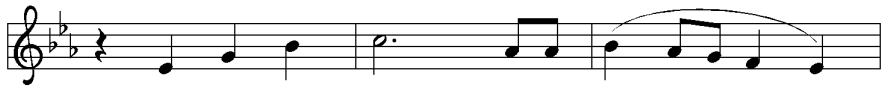
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L** Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**A** The word of the Lord.

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

## **SECOND READING**

**1 John 1:1--2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*All Stand & Sing*

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

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

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL

**John 20:19-31**

L The holy gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

Deacon Beka

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*



## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

All Sing



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;  
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.  
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
Praise to thee by both be giv'n.  
Thee we greet triumphant now:  
hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,  
everlasting life is this:  
thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,  
thus to sing, and thus to love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222

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## 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.*

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to all forms of oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. May the promise of resurrection that we hear in the season of Easter be one we see take hold not only one day, but this day. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve and bring new life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Rock of Ages*

Flute Solo

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*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

A Let us pray.

C **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and**

**what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **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.**

### **BLESSING**

**L Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**L 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: *Thine is the Glory*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939  
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

## **SENDING**

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

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

## **POSTLUDE:**

\*We give thanks for our Lector, Sherry Alexander

\*Altar flowers are given by Carole Jolley in honor of Brenda Foster's birthday

Thanks to our Flutist, Julia Gunter

## **This Weeks Schedule:**

### **Sunday, April 7th**

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

6:00 pm – Church Choir

### **Tuesday, April 9th**

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

7:00 pm – Small Group 2

### **Wednesday, April 10th**

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

### **Thursday, April 11th**

10:30 am – Prime Timers

### **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Evening – Youth Lock-In



**"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**

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[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

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