Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 6, 2014

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

- P For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

(Sing Response)

- P For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

(Sing Response)

P Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once and for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Amen.



Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

GREETING

- P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE





SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children's sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day*. Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nursery**.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1–14

A reading from the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²O LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord

more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel

from all their sins.

SECOND READING Romans 8:6–11

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

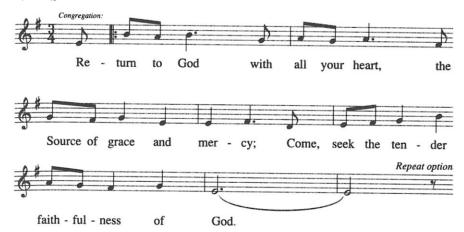
⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL John 11:1–45

The holy gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring

merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

- The gospel of the Lord. P
- \mathbf{C} Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Jan Henson **HYMN OF THE DAY:** Christ, The Life of All the Living All Stand & Sing Christ, the life of all the liv-ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe, 2 You have suf-fered great af - flic-tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly, 3 Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor-rows deep and sore, Christ, your-self for me once giv-ing to the dark - est depths of woe: e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me; the an-guish in the gar-den, will thank you ev - er - more; 1 through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it. be tor-ment-ed that my doom should be pre-vent-ed. you chose to you for the groan-ing, sigh-ing, for the bleed-ing and the dy-ing, Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you. that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687

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.

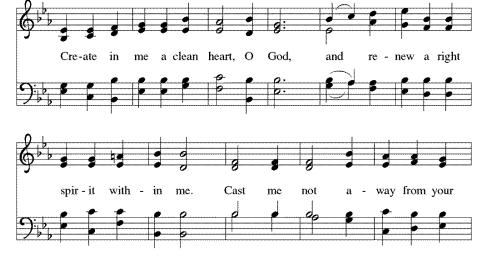
I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: I Walked Today Solo

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create In Me All Stand & Sing



^{*} catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Pour out your Spirit upon your church so that your people speak words of life to dry bones. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring newness of life to all of creation: to animals, plants, lands, and sea, that they be refreshed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unbind all nations, peoples, and tribes from violence and war. Breathe the breath of new life and reconciliation where there is conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir up your healing power to redeem from illness all those who wait upon you, that they know your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire this congregation to honor and lift up the gifts of all artists, musicians, needle workers, painters, potters, and sculptors, that your glory be revealed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all the saints who have been lifted up to live with you in light eternal. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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,

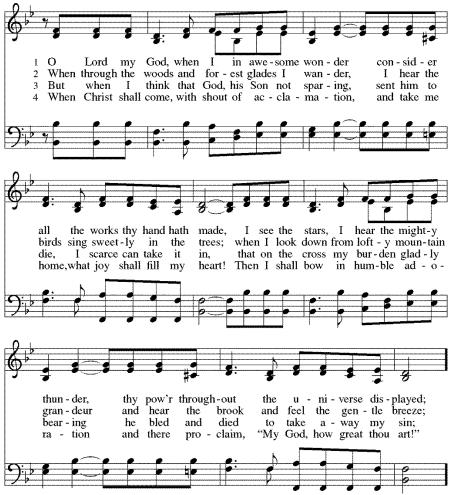
forever and ever. Amen.

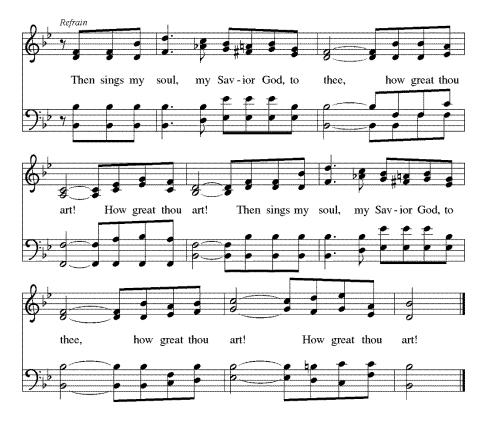
BLESSING

P God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: How Great Thou Art All Stand & Sing





Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fifth Sunday of Lent.** We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our

guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said. "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! Please return the tote bag with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Debbie Neagle in honor of all birthdays in April; and by Courtney Gatlin in honor of Sherry Alexander.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 30, 2014:

Attendance: 143 **Budget Report**

March 30, 2014 Current Offering Received 3/30/14 \$ 3,029.50 Weekly Expenses \$ 4,504.60 Offering, Year-To-Date \$ 53,339.25

The Current Offering Received for the year through March 30, 2014 is \$ 2,097.09 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

CANTOR: Men's Chorus

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Julia Gunter **SOLOIST:** Don Robinson

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin **GREETER:** Katie Kessen

Matthew Carr, Alec Via

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Melissa Bocchino & Mandi Kline

16

CRUCIFERS: Hannah Carnes, Molly Koehler, Noah Rogers

TELLERS: Jerri & Mike Wesson USHERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Carmen De Nicholas

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain Brandy Milton

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 6

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, April 8

5:45 pm Lenten dinner

6:30 pm Mid-Week Worship

Lord's Prayer by

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

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 6-12

April 8 Shirley Causby Fran Holland

April 10 Bryan Fleming

April 11 Matthew Mitchell April 12 Elizabeth Burwell



Lent 2014: Midweek Worship on Tuesday, 6:30 pm

(Following our Lenten meal at 5:45 pm)

Our theme is the *Lord's Prayer*. One last speaker on April 8...you are a blessing to God AND to those who will hear God's Word through you!

April 8, Julia Gunter: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Many thanks to our members for their donation of \$300.00 during our recent drive for the LTSS Auxiliary. Holy Comforter was the first church to make this commitment (1960) and continues to this day.

Barbara Beale, Monique Estelle, & Beverly Reynolds



Communion will be offered after the worship service immediately after the congregation has been greeted at the back of the church. Please join Pastor Henson at the altar to receive the sacraments.



HOLYWEEK SCHEDULE



April 17: Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion is at 7:00 pm April 18: Good Friday Service with Crucifixion mime is at 7:00 pm April19: Children's Egg Hunt, Ages 2 (Toddler) - 5th Grade, "Rolling Away the Stone" 10:00-12 Noon, no meal

April 20: Easter Sunrise at 7:30 am outside, weather permitting Easter Breakfast after Sunrise service * No Children's Sunday School Easter Regular Worship with Holy Communion is at 10:30 am in the sanctuary

Our guest pastor this morning is Pastor Jan Henson. Please welcome her!

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Forms Available.

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of April 24th:
 - 1. Your completed application
 - 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 - 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals (Email the church office at holycomforter@gmail.com and request Lineberger Scholarship Form.)

Our best wishes to you in your educational journey. Your Scholarship Ministry, Carmen De Nicholas



Camp Agape Rising 1st Graders — Rising 8th Graders! This year we are expanding the day camp to include 6th-8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$125 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise AustinRichard HoldenLiz PropstVirginia CrumpZac HullanderMabel RatchfordDaniel DowdChase LinebergerMark ReeseFerrie HedrickPat Long & Family

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam Ruth Lail Shore Family Megan Sigler Dale Burris Peggy McKenney & Family **Grady Nichols** Ronnie Hagy Ramona J. Sinclair Brian Hedrick Sandra Nix Jimmy Surratt Paul Outlaw Kathy Helton Harrison Swindell Jean Peters Charmaine Townsend Betty Fox Claudia Frazier **Taylor Propst & Family** Buck Weatherford Ronnie Hersey David Prouty Beverly F. Wall Mara Rappleyea Dennis Jordan Gloria Ward Wesley Jordan & Family Joel Rivers (NY) Bryan Wayburn

Betty Kannapel Steve Sanford
Laura Lanuto & Family Kelly Shoe

Jason Gardner

OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Yount Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Easter Lily Order

For Sunday, April 20, 2014

Please place your Easter Lily Order by filling in the form below. You may then return the form to the church office or place in the offering plate. All orders must be accompanied by payment at time of order so that we can keep a proper accounting of your gifts and reduce the possibilities of errors. Please PRINT CLEARLY your name and the name of person/persons you are honoring or placing the Easter lilies in memory of. <u>Deadline to place your order is April 13, 2014</u>.

Easter Lily Order Form		
Your Name:		
Telephone #:	Numbe	r of Lilies Ordered:
In Honor Of:		
In Memory Of:		
To The Glory of God: _	Paid Check 🗆	Paid Cash 🗆

The cost of **each** Easter lily is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* with notation on check that it is for Easter lily order.