

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter at Lutheridge

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 14, 2014

Holy Cross Day

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

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 Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

C Amen.

P Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Generous and faithful God,

C we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy. Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others. Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin, and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *Hear I Am Lord* All Stand & Sing

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace 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.

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.

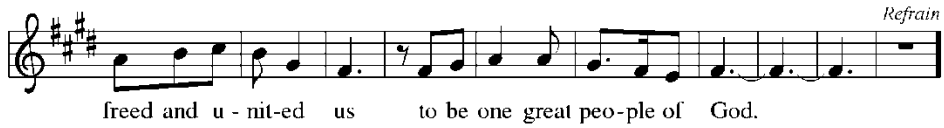
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

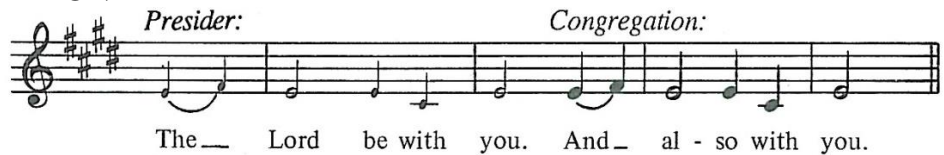
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

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



SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, 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.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers.

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

^{4b}But the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1:18–24

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

A The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

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 3:13–17

The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

SERMON..... Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* All Stand & Sing



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Fullness of God* Church Choir
Raini Kimball, Conductor

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As The Grains of Wheat* All Stand & Sing

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with

Presider: *Congregation:*

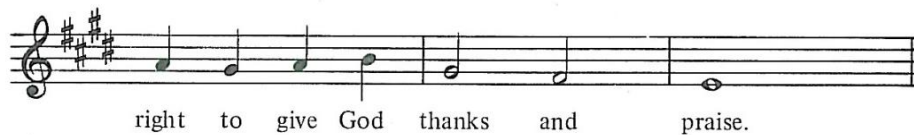
you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider:

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is



PREFACE

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

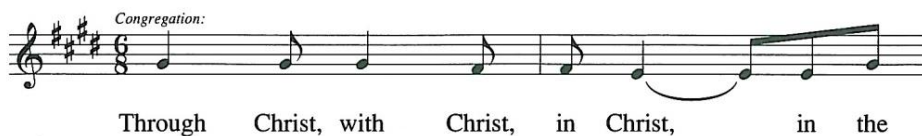
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

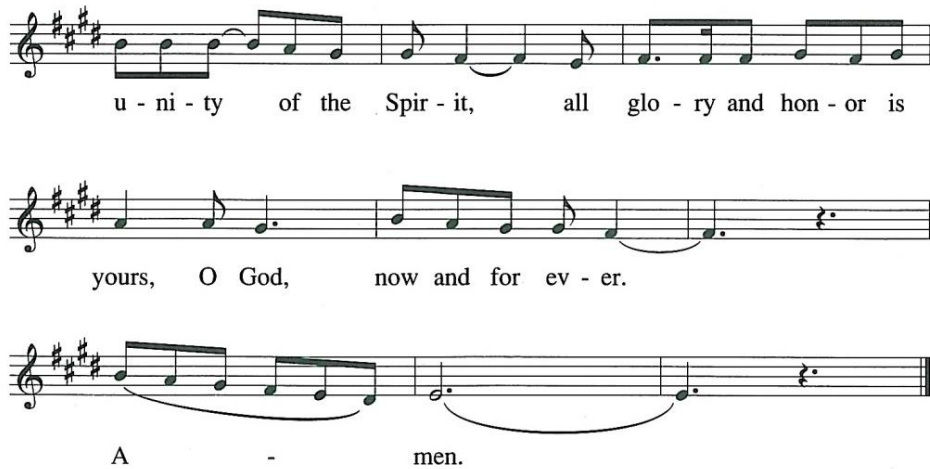


THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

THROUGH CHRIST





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 reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.
C Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
* you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and



world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

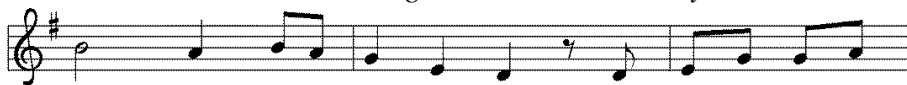


grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Light Dawns On a Weary World* All Sing



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



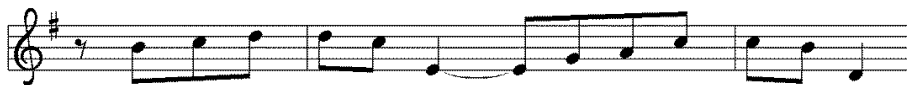
wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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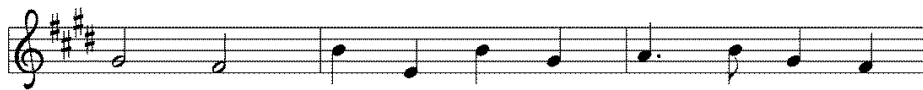
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P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



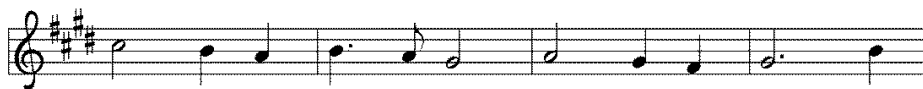
1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



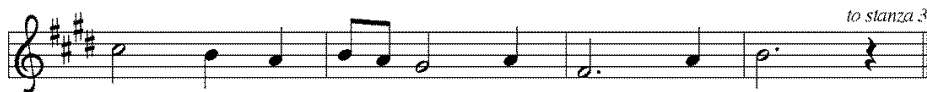
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O God, the host at every meal,

C at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers;

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *This Little Light of Mine* All Stand & Sing

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine it all around, I'm gonna let it shine;
Shine it all around, I'm gonna let it shine;
Shine it all around, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 7, 2014:

Attendance: 163

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 9/7/14
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

September 7, 2014

\$ 4,949.00
\$ 4,504.60
\$145,617.78
(\$ 2,833.84)
(\$ 15,013.80)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell, Nathan Baakko

CRUCIFERS: Aaron Nault, Ashton Nault

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell, Barbara Kasmer, Deb Williams

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Need Volunteers

GREETER: Brenda Daly, Louise Day

USHERS: Need Volunteers

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin,
Bill Hollar

FLUTE: Julia Gunter

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS: Next Sunday: Tracey Nault + Helper

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 14

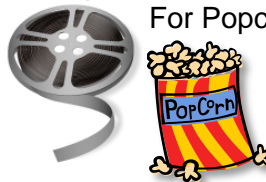
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
No afternoon music rehearsals
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, September 16

7:00 pm Chamber Choir, Nar-Anon

Saturday, September 20

1:30 pm ***Kids' Club*** in Theater Room
For Popcorn & a movie



NOTE: *Children's' Ensemble* resumes September 21 at 4 pm.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 14-20

Today, Sept. 14 Emily Koehler
September 16 Leslie Braddy
September 17 Bill Hollar
September 18 Winston Baker
Jayne Beasley



September 20 Diann Halvorson
Lyn Miller
Beverly Reynolds
Dan Wallace

Contact Tom Bocchino at tbocchino@hotmail.com or 704-461-8208 to help with **Church Picnic** on **October 4**. Congregation is asked to bring side dishes. Drinks furnished.