## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 29, 2015

## The Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

- P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Hosanna in the highest.

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

- A The processional gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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

#### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

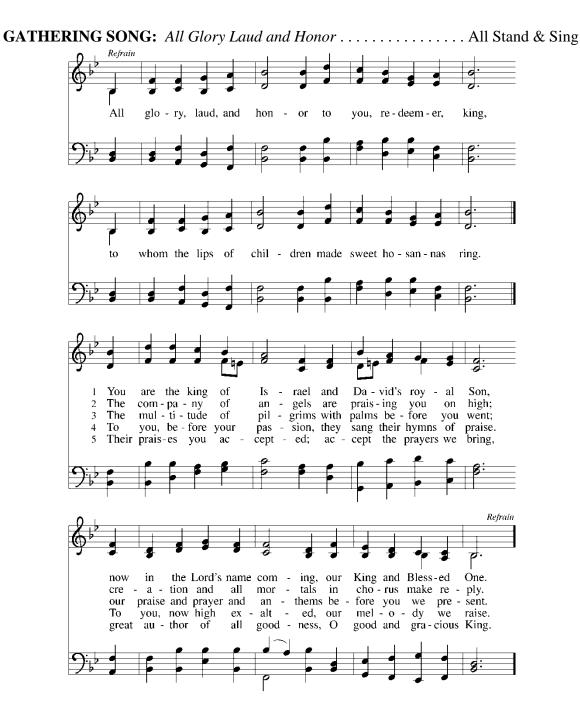
C Amen.

## **PROCESSION**

- P Let us go forth in peace,
- C in the name of Christ. Amen.

The assembly follows the ministers into the church.





Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

- P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Hosanna in the highest.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is seated and invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

#### **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 Isaiah 50:4–9a

A reading from the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah.

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens —
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

8he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5–11

A reading from the second chapter of Philippians.

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.

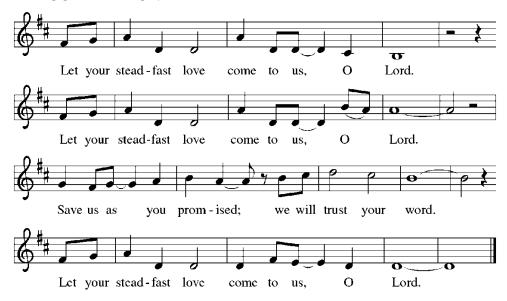
9Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



GOSPEL Mark 15:1–47

- P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

<sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the

afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup>Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

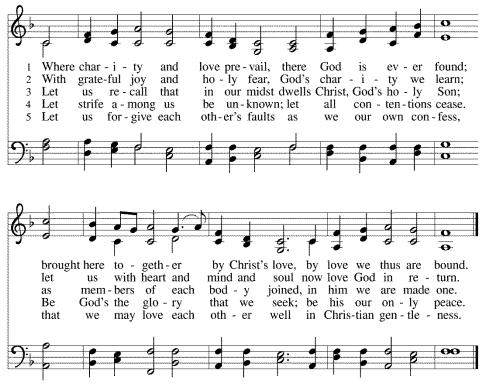
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah



**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Where Charity and Love Prevail* . . . . . . . **All Stand & Sing** [All members of the Children's Ensemble come to the balcony during the singing of the hymn.]



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY–FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

## THE 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

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that congregations be a home for the lost, a haven for the oppressed, and a source of healing for those broken by life's circumstances. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for new life springing forth from the earth; for those who groan in labor, those who are adopting children, and those who are unable to conceive. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for Christians who do not have the freedom to worship openly, for political prisoners, refugees, widows, and orphans. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We pray for those who care for the weary and vulnerable: nurses, hospice workers, childcare providers, and social workers. We pray for those in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly as it enters this holy week. Sustain our pastor/s, musician/s, staff, volunteers, and all those who will prepare for and lead worship this week, and bring us all to the joy of Easter. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

<sup>\*</sup> catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

We give thanks for the blessed saints who showed us how to live and taught us how to die. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

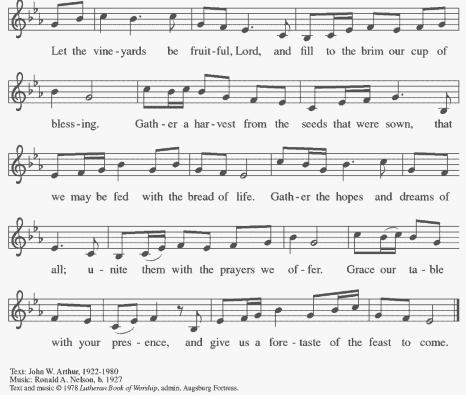
## **PEACE**

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** Blessed Is He . . . . . Church Choir & Children's Ensemble

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Let the Vineyards . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



## **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.

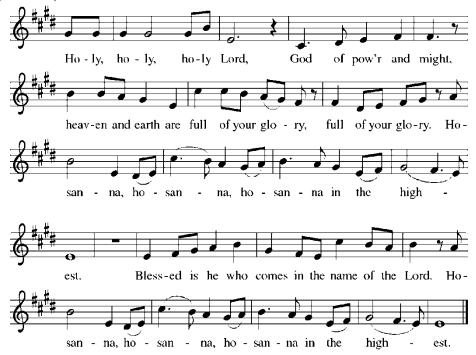
## **DIALOGUE**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P 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



## 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.

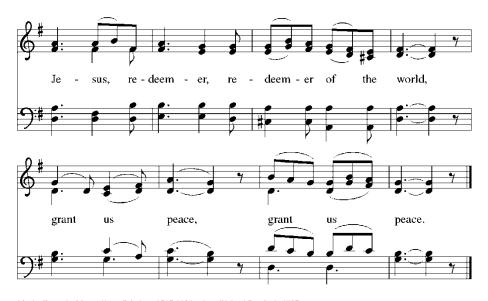
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God. C

**COMMUNION SONG:** *Jesus, Lamb of God* . .





Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.gianusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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#### **COMMUNION**

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: . . . . Chamber Choir There in God's stands the Tree of Wis dom, gar - den name that says, "Our ior!" name is Je -Sav sus, Thorns not own are tan - gled in its fo liage; See how its branch - es reach to wel come; in

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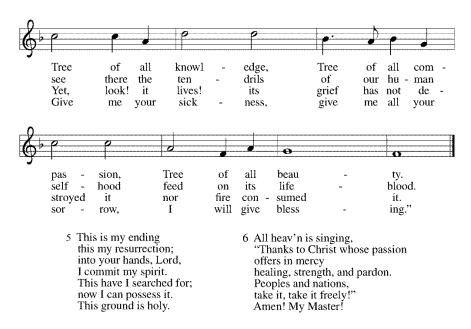
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Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982 Musie: Shades Mountain, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950 Text  $\otimes$  1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers. Inc.

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 Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days.

Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

- P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

## **DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday. 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or online at www.holyc.org.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Judy H. Summey and Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Nault; and by Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke & Alec Via in honor of Myra Hollar's birthday.

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

## Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 22, 2015:

Attendance: 160

Budget Report	Ma	rch 22, 2015
Current Offering Received 3/22/2015	\$	6,215.26
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$	4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$	58,567.21
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date	\$	5,195.80
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$	4,265.64

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. **GREETER:** Volunteer

**ACOLYTE:** Need Volunteer **CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER: **NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

Beth Brittain Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4) **DOUBLE BASS:** Steve Bingham

Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

Barbara Kasmer Carmen Buell **USHERS:** Volunteers

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team C)

Sherry Alexander Courtney Gatlin **EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Tim & Shelia Kelly Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 29-April 4

March 31 Pat Long April 4 Sherry Alexander April 1 Barbara Kasmer Sandra Cline April 3 Garrett Carpenter Myra Hollar





## Sunday School Attendance for March 22, 2015

	Children	Adults
Nursery	6	3
Pre-K	8	2
God's Eden	13	2
Seekers		18
Adult Bible Class		13
Totals:	29	39

# THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, March 29

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir room

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

## Tuesday, March 31

7:00 pm Nar-Anon



7:30 pm *Maundy Thursday* 

Worship w/Holy Communion

## Friday, April 3

7:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae

Service w/Stripping of Altar



## Saturday, April 4

10:00 am-Noon Easter Egg Hunt

Egg Hunt with prizes & Lunch For Ages 2-Grade 5

## Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection of Our Lord

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Breakfast after the service

NO Children's Sunday school

10:05 am Chamber Choir in Choir Room

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Service with Holy Communion

Remember to bring flowers for "flowering of the Cross" before the 10:30 service

**The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship** is available to members of Holy Comforter. You may request an application form via email form the church office by filling in *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. Send your request to <a href="https://holycomforter@gmail.com">holycomforter@gmail.com</a>.



## **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com



## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander

Bill & Pauline Joye Chase Lineberger Rianna & Thomas Nance Holly Peche Carol Posey Mark Reese Beverly Reynolds George Roberson Marguerite Shive Dennis Tucker

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Pam Anderson Family Harriett Ange Paige Beaver Jenny Beer Father Frank Cancro

Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family

Brian Hedrick

Eric Herdan
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Dawn Mitchell
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Jean Peters

Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Julio Quiros
Anna Rudder
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Alex Yount

Beverly Howe Poag

## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner



Jeremy Shaver

## **OUR MISSIONARIES**

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young 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 inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

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