

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

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 In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *Father Most Holy* All Stand & Sing



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
 2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
 3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea - tures praise thee; all for thy
 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
 bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
 wor - ship we and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
 joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
 wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
 praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

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..... Guest, Sami Johnson

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For the whole church of God: its leaders, missionaries, youth workers, chaplains, pastors, bishops, and all the baptized. Help us proclaim Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all creation: seeds that are sown, fields that are harvested, winds that blow, rains that fall, animals that roam, and the fruits of the earth. Fill us with thanksgiving for these gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of this world: presidents, prime ministers, monarchs, parliaments, elected representatives, and heads of corporations. Inspire them to do what is right and just even if it looks foolish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all who suffer in mind and body: the bullied and the shamed, the brokenhearted and the beaten-down, the sick and the dying. Heal them with the encouragement of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the mission of this congregation, its ministries, stewardship, fellowship, outreach, homebound, children, volunteers, staff, and council. Make us a beacon of your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In thanksgiving for the blessed dead: those martyred and those who gave themselves in love, those who died alone and those who died tragically, that they, together with all your saints, be lifted up in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. 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 Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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. Serve the Lord.

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:

PULPIT GUEST: Sami Johnson, Senior Seminarian

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

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 14

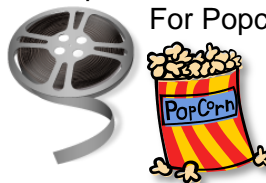
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
No afternoon music rehearsals
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

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.

NOTE: The first confirmation class for the season will be held at Lutheran Chapel in Gastonia on **September 27**. Confirmands meet at 8:30 am in HolyC's parking lot to carpool.

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





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Virginia Crump Family
Louise Day

Daniel Dowd
Cher Grant
Ferrie Hedrick
Kay Holden

Zac Hullander
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese
Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Janice Barker
Kathy Beam
Helen Brasfield
Dale Burris
Father Frank Cancro
Ken Capps
Wesley Coleman
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Donald Freeman
Ronnie Garrison
Ronnie Hersey

Judy Jackson
Dennis Jordan
Wesley Jordan & Family
Betty Kannapel
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Becky Knick
Alice Langley
Laura Lanuto & Family
Pierce Lee
Steve Mathis
Peggy McKenney & Family
Sandra Nix
Mark Outlaw
Jean Peters
Leland "Lee" Peterson

Scott Phillips
Steve Pletsas
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Mara Rappleyea
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
E. Taylor & Family
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward
Bryan Wayburn
Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



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 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.



If you would like
to help with the
Church Picnic

Please contact
Tom Bocchino

(for details) at
tbocchino@hotmail.com
Or 704-461-8208

Congregation is asked to bring
side dishes, i.e. baked beans,
potato salad, chips, pickles, etc.

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
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager