

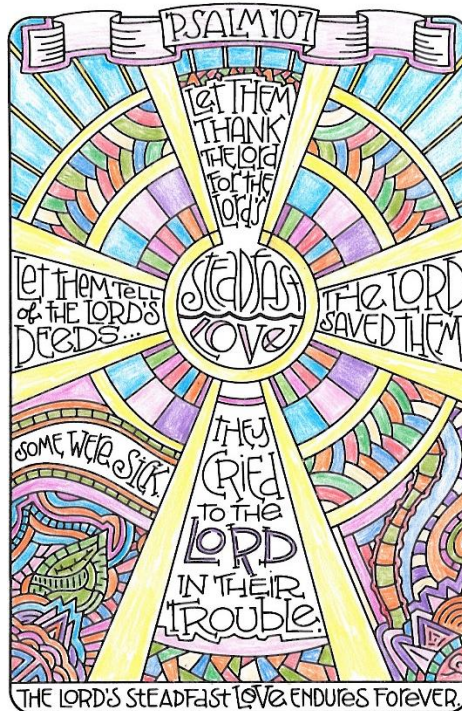
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



By Lyn Miller

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus* Lenel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism
as the presiding minister begins:*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

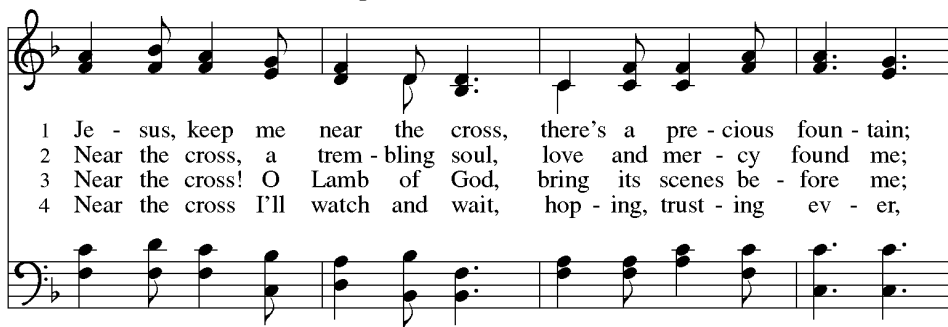
P Merciful God,

C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross All Stand & Sing*

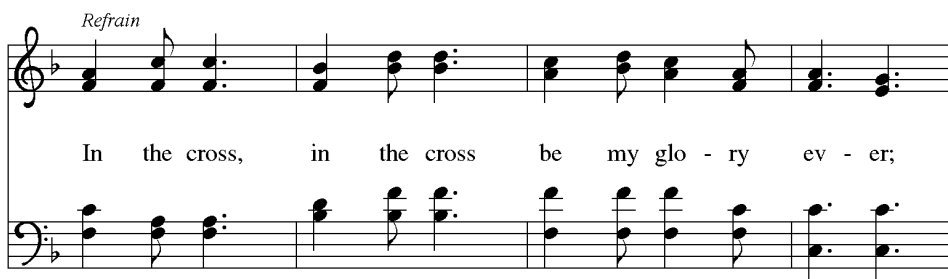


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

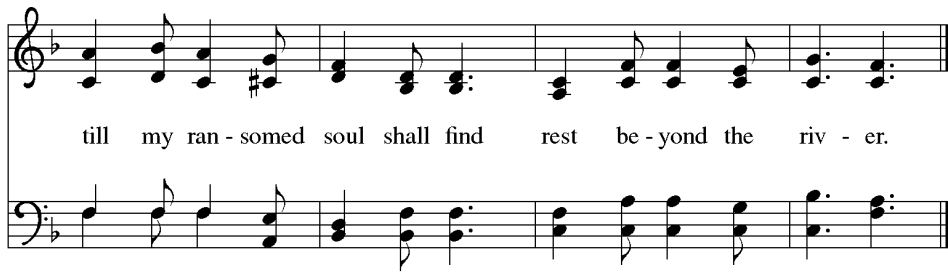


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



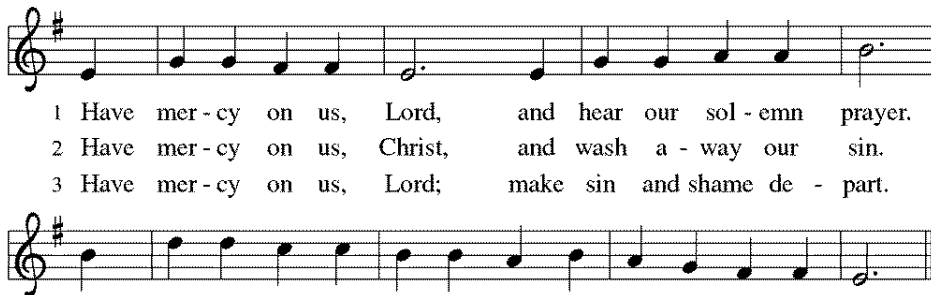
Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 nurseries**.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers.

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; 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

Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from the second chapter of Ephesians.

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

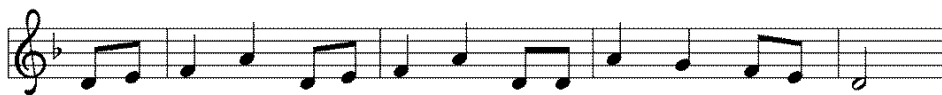
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at

work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL

John 3: 14-21

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.



[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“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.

¹⁶“For 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.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order

that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

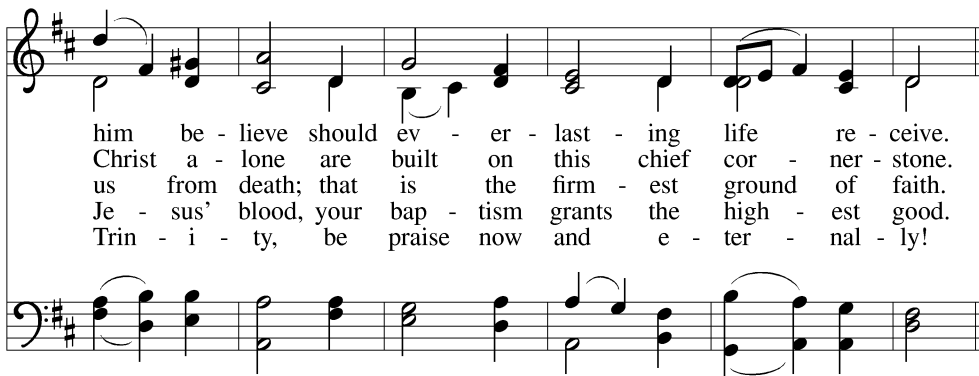
P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God Loved the World* All Stand & Sing

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For new members finding their place. For volunteers who care for our members. For those who give their time to raise up children in faith. For altar guild, communion assistants, crucifers, acolytes, and lectors, who support our worship of you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

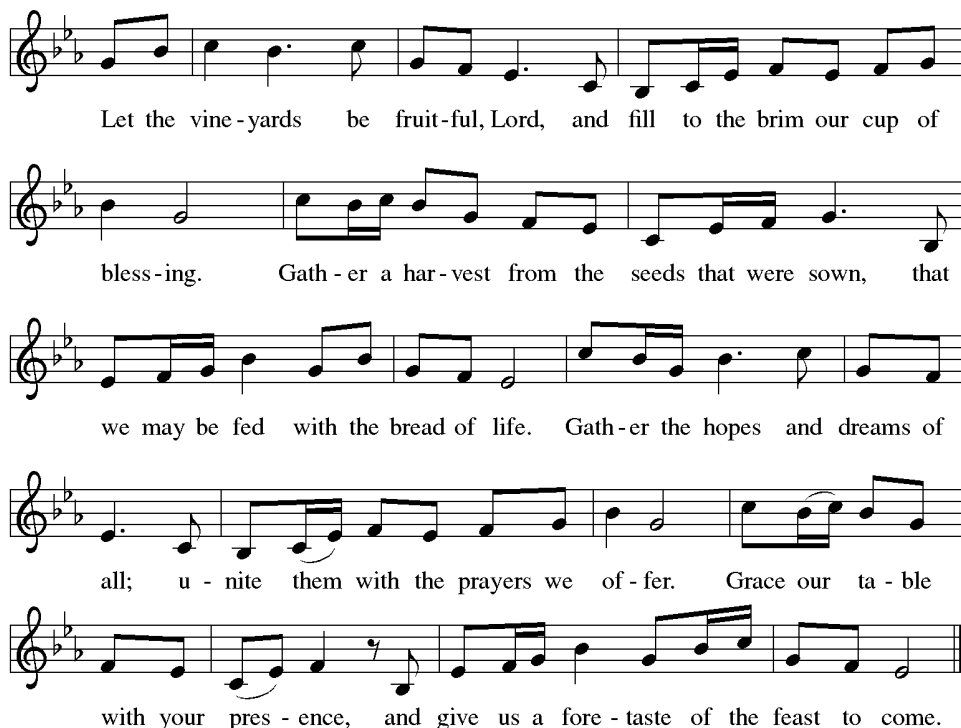
P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

OFFERING



OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *You Are Precious, Lord, To Me* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* All Stand & Sing



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through 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.**

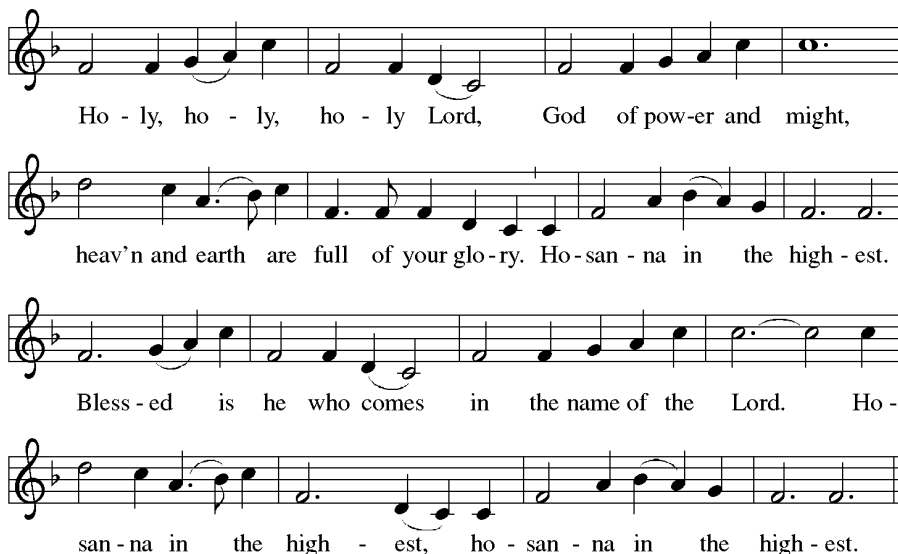
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

P Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION SONG

Musical notation for the Communion Song, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the staff, the lyrics are provided for three voices (1, 2, and 3).

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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: *For Grace You Have Been Saved All Sing*



- 1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
- 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
- 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
God's great gift." A - men.
God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Music: ARMOLAU, Kari Tikka
Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

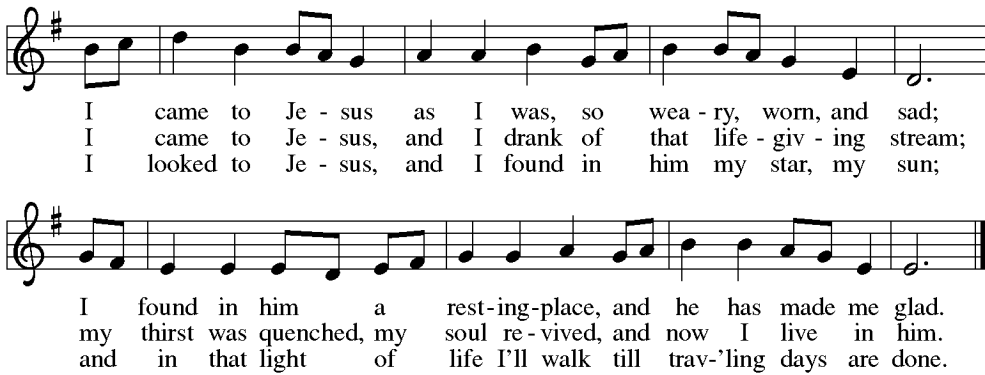
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say All Sing



- 1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
- 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
- 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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 Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

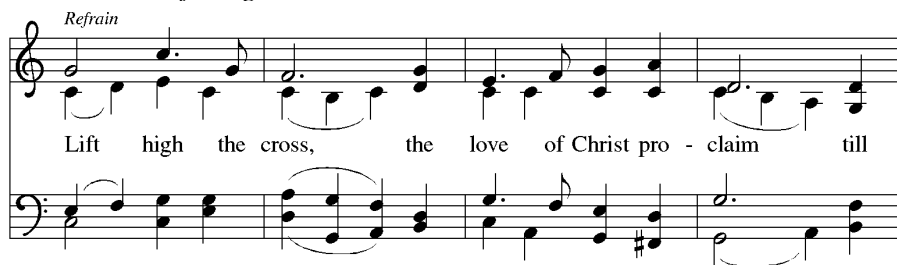
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

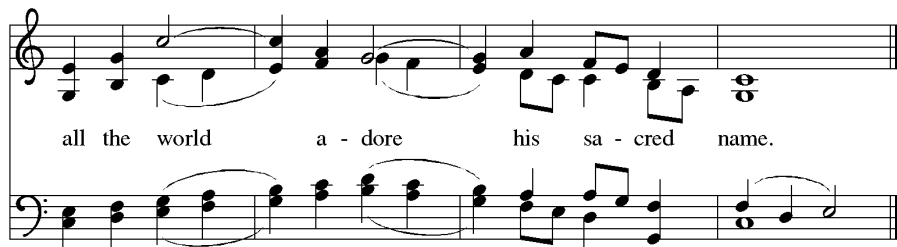
C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Lift High the Cross* All Stand & Sing

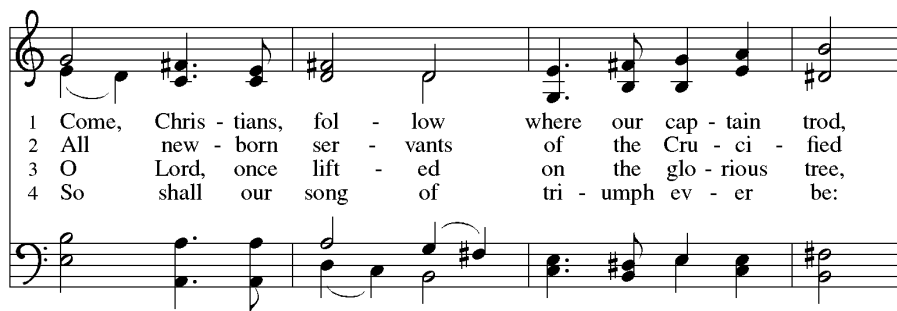
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

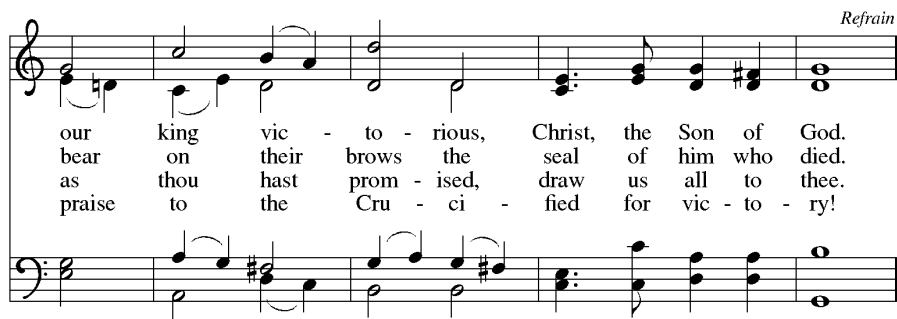


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SENDING

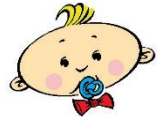
P Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Fourth Sunday in 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



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.**

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 4, 2018:

Attendance: 136

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>March 4, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 6,544.00	\$ 47,754.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 48,362.59
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 992.83</u>	(\$ 608.56)
Budgeted Expenses		<u>51,282.27</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 3,528.24)</u>

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Carmen & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Arden's birthday.

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

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Tim & Shelia Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Carmen Buell, Captain

Dean & Diann Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jenn Kearney

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Volunteer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 11-17

Today, March 11 Veronica Bryant
Arden De Nicholas

March 13 Raini Kimball

March 14 Tyler Ange
Tracey Nault
Nancy Powell



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, March 11

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
HCY at the church
6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesday, March 14

5:00 pm Handbell Class (kids)
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
6:45 pm *Holden Evening Prayer*
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, March 15

7:00 pm Evangelism meets

Tuesday, March 13

7:00 pm Nar-Anon



Saturday, March 17

10:00 am **Kids' Club** at the church
St. Patrick's celebration **Wear Green!**

BCO March Items of the Month



Dried Beans & Rice



Music Week at *Lutheridge*, July 8-14, is open for registration. Grade 1 - Adult scholarships are available to Holy C members. See Greg Cline.

The 29th Annual Holy Comforter *Isle of Palms Retreat*

will be Memorial Day weekend,

Thursday, May 24 through Monday, May 28th, 2018.

Signup at the church. Contact Veronica Bryant or Mandi Kline for details.

Cost: \$99 per room per night with a minimum of 2 nights.

Make checks payable to Holy Comforter (due by Easter Sunday)



Attendance March 4, 2018

	Adults	Kids
Pre-K	2	3
Lower Elementary	1	3
Upper Elementary	1	6
Middle School	1	3
Seekers	4	
Senior Adults	11	
Totals:	20	15



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid
Clarence McLain
Jennifer Lineberger

Anne Murdy
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

Please remember these people in your prayers.
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

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

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*. **The cost of each lily is \$15.00. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 25, 2018.**



Easter Lily Order Form

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Number of lilies ordered: _____

☐ In Honor Of: _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____

☐ To The Glory of God: _____

☐ Paid Check

☐ Paid Cash

☐ Mailed Payment



The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.
There are 115 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!
For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.

In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston.
Below, meet Emily Koehler:



Hi, my name is Emily and I am 13 years old. I am in 8th grade at Belmont Middle School. I have been a member of Holy Comforter my whole life. My hobbies include tennis, painting, and reading. I am looking forward to our Youth Gathering in June. I am excited to meet other people my age from all over the country that have the same beliefs as me. I look forward to helping the Houston community through multiple service projects. I'm sure we are going to have lots of fun.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street 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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager