

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 1, 2015

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Your Canopy of Vigil Light* from *Unfailing Light*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy and merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.

P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *We Come to You for Healing, Lord All Stand & Sing*

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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GREETING

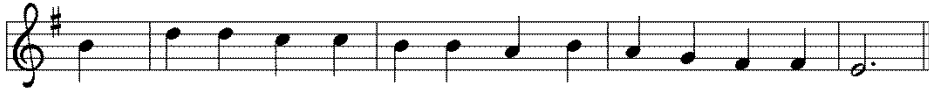
P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



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!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

A reading from the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy.

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 111 Read Responsively

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,**
pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

**⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

A reading from the eighth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become

so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

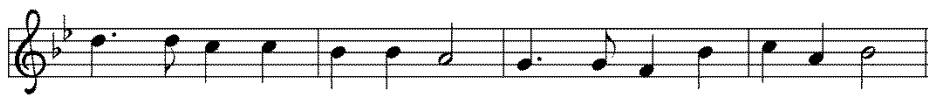
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21–28

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

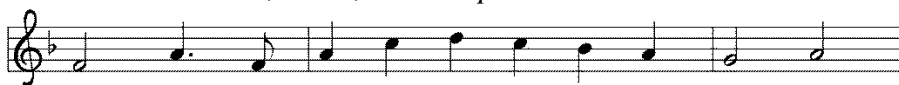
The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

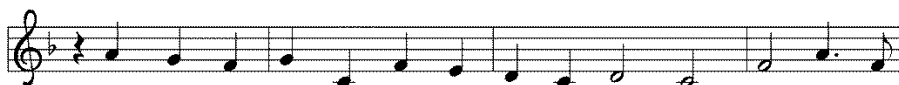
P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

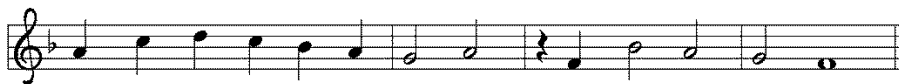
HYMN OF THE DAY: *Rise, Shine, You People!* All Stand & Sing



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

PEACE

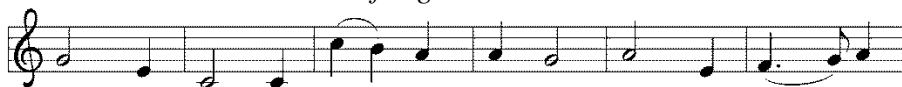
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Brighter Than Snow* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Lord of Light* All Stand & Sing



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:

Refrain
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Prophetic God, inspire your church to speak with authority and act with strength where the powers of evil are most oppressive and human hearts yearn for dignity and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Drive out the demons of greed and carelessness that wound creation through pollution and over use. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Send prophets of wisdom and courage to our nation. Move us beyond partisan divisions to a common search for liberty and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Healer of our every ill, bring hope and solace to those who struggle with depression. Set free those burdened by feelings of guilt, shame, and worthlessness. Visit the sick with your compassionate Spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen the witness of preachers, teachers, and all who proclaim the gospel in the assembly and the witness of parish nurses, counselors, spiritual directors, and all who proclaim the gospel in their vocations. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, the saints listened to your voice and you freed them to live and love for you. Open our ears to hear you and follow their example of faith and courage. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.
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, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.
C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *On Our Way Rejoicing* All Stand & Sing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

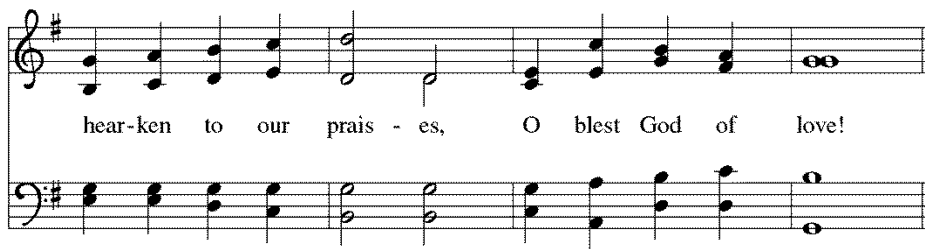
Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

Continued on next page...



Text: John S. B. Monsehl, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**. 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 Donna Bean and Horace Bean in memory of the Bean and Morgan Families.

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, January 25, 2015:

Attendance: 149

Budget Report

January 25, 2015

Current Offering Received 1/25/15

\$ 3,316.00

Weekly Budget Expenses

\$ 4,598.27

Offering, Year-To-Date

\$ 20,466.00

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Brian Achor

GREETER: Melissa Bocchino

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Ginger MacDonald

CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

USHERS: Nathan & Amanda Kelly

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Trudy Whitener + Helper



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 1-7

February 4 Scott Carr

February 6 Julia Ratchford

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 1

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Children's Ensemble meets briefly

in Choir Room after the service

4:00 pm Handbells

5:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, February 3

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Saturday, February 7

8:30 am *Confirmands* leave

for Redeemer in

Gastonia

The 26th Annual Congregation Retreat to Isle of Palms

Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3

Contact Greg Cline at **704-860-4460**

First come, first served!



HCY will be going *snow tubing* at *Moonshine Mountain* in Hendersonville next Sunday, **February 8th!** We will meet immediately following the service for a quick lunch before heading up the mountain. We should return around 6:00 p.m. Friends are welcome! **Cost is \$25 per person** and includes two hours of tubing.

You **MUST RSVP to Kristen Williams**, keclanton@gmail.com or [\(704\) 678-0137](tel:7046780137), **no later than February 3rd.** Any parents interested in carpooling, please also contact Kristen. Release forms must be filled in, signed and sent with the child.

Sunday School Attendance January 25, 2015



	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	4	2
Pre-K	6	1
God's Eden	6	1
Youth	3	1
Seekers/New Members		16
Adult Bible Class		9
Totals:	19	30



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Daniel Dowd
Monique Estelle
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander

Bill & Pauline Joye
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Carol Posey
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese

Beverly Reynolds
George Roberson
Marguerite Shive
Dennis Tucker

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family
Brian Hedrick

Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Betty Kannapel
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Dawn Mitchell
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Jean Peters

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

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 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.

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 Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager