Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Prelude in G Minor J. S. Bach

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 God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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: Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow All Stand & Sing



Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt. Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GoD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



¹Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

²O LORD, | hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴Yet with you | is forgiveness,

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits; in your word | is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning, more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love; with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel from | all their sins.

SECOND READING Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

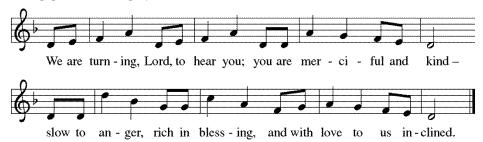
⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who

raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 11: 1-45

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

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was

not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense All Stand & Sing



- 5 Then take comfort and rejoice for his people Christ will cherish. Fear not, you will hear his voice; dying, you will never perish; for the very grave is stirred when the trumpet's blast is heard.
- 6 Here on earth, then, let your hearts rise from longings vain and hollow. Seek what Christ your Lord imparts while you in his footsteps follow. As you now still wait to rise, set your hearts beyond the skies!

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–1679; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT, attr. Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; From fruitless fear unfurl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r. Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; Baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God fulfill the promise of your grace, That we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

OFFERING PRAYER

P 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; Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God, our sure strength, set the mind of your church on the Spirit of love and kinship. Bring healing where there is division and hope where there is worry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring life where there was despair and death. Bring new hope and new growth to barren lands and water to parched earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Listen to the voices of the weak and oppressed. Guard people in all lands from danger and injustice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Martha and Mary pleaded for healing. Hear the cries of your people who call out in need and pain. Grant healing and comfort to those who are ill. (*We pray especially for* . . .) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring life to dry bones in our community. Breathe your life-giving Spirit into the corners of our ministry that need renewal. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the faithful departed and for the assurance that we will join with them in the heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; 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 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.



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt. Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fifth 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 located 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 online form at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Jane & Jeff Howard in honor of Myra Hollar'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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 26, 2017:

Attendance: 139

Budget Report March 26, 2017 Year-to-Date Offering \$ 4,451.00 \$ 66,354.59 \$ 70,1806.02 Expenses 5,656.42 Offering less Expenses 4,451.43) 1.205.42) **Budgeted Expenses** 70,806.02 Offering less Budgeted Expenses 3,666.25)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Veronica Bryant

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: GREETER: Pat Koehler

Volunteers

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Dian Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
Infants: Volunteer
Toddlers: Volunteer

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer USHERS: Volunteers

TELLERS: Raini Kimball, Dennis Tucker

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: April 2-8

April 3 Garrett Carpenter April 4 Sherry Alexander

Susan Clark Sandra Cline Myra Hollar April 5 Taylor Buchanan April 8 Shirley Causby Fran Holland



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, April 2

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Worship Service

2-4 pm Confirmation at Redeemer, Gastonia

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble VBS Planning Meeting

5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, April 4

7:00 pm Property Committee, Nar-Anon

Wednesday, April 5

6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship

6:45 pm Worship

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, April 8

7:00 pm Staying Connected



Meet in Fellowship Hall to make "graduate" and "new member" gifts



Join us June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm, for our Annual Vacation Bible School! This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email

Melissa Bocchino at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com. Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5th. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!

It is hard to believe but it is already time to start planning for summer camp!



Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape July 17-21.

Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Shirley Causby & Family
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin & Family
Chase Lineberger
Lucy Mitchell & Family
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Karen de la Vegas
Carol Fox
Scott Frisk
Bill Hinkle

Glenda Hinkle
Brian Jackson & Family
Jennifer Lineberger
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
Anne Murdy

Heather Plichta Margaret Sparks Karen Wayt Donnie Yavelak

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner



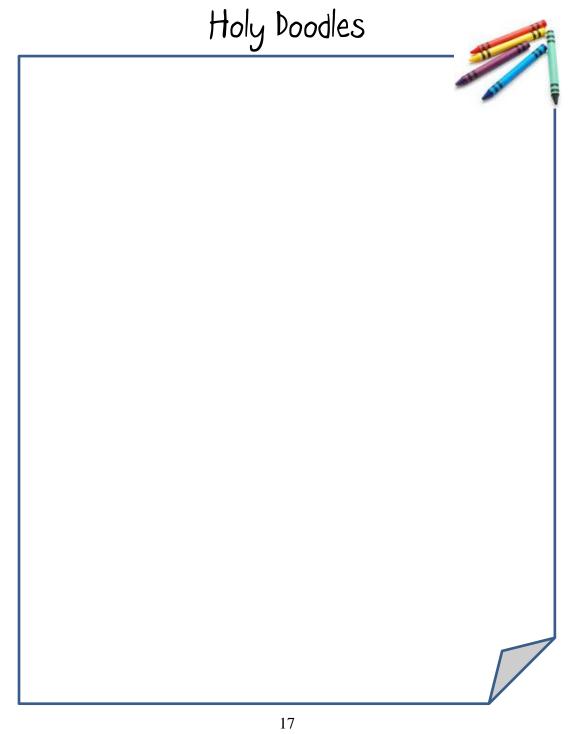
Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer

Tom Kasmer

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 located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org



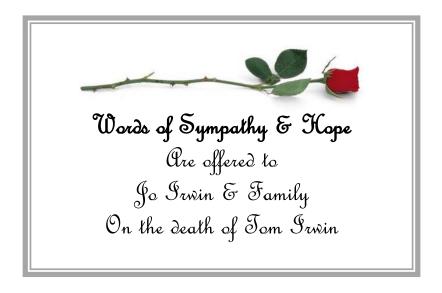


Easter Lily Order

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. <u>Deadline to place your order is April 9, 2017</u>.

Easter Lily Order Form				
Your Name:				
Telephone #:	Number o	f Lilies Ordered:		
In Honor Of:				
In Memory Of:				
To The Glory of God:				
	Paid Check 🗆			

The cost of each Easter lily is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* with notation on check that it is for Easter lily order.



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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager