

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 4, 2021

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING: America, the Beautiful. *Koury*

WELCOME

PRELUDE: Nimrod. *Elgar*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *God of Our Fathers* *All Stand & Sing*



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
 2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
 4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land by you our lot is cast;
 make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
 oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
 Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
 fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace



our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
 your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
 your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907, alt.
 Music: NATIONAL HYMN, George W. Warren, 1828–1902

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

A



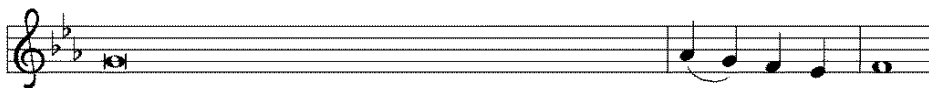
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C



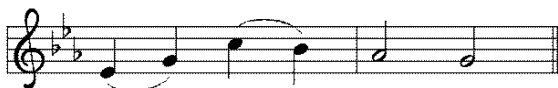
Lord, have mer - cy.

A



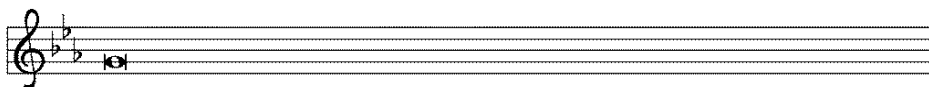
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



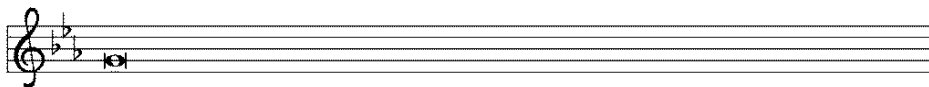
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

A



let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *All Sing*


Refrain




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

A reading from the second chapter of Ezekiel.

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord God.”

⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

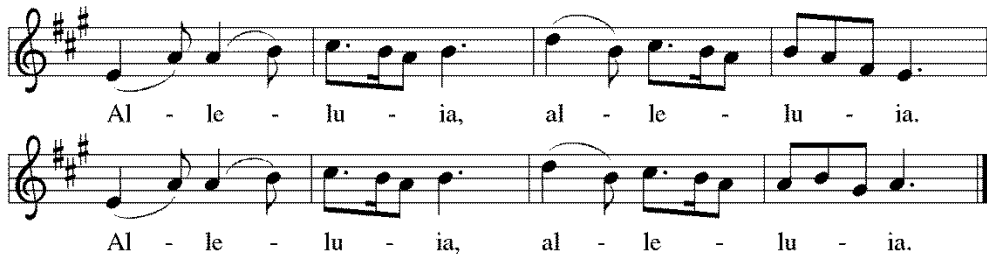
2 Corinthians 12:2-10

A reading from the 2 Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-13

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

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

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence for Reflection is Kept.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *In Christ Called to Baptize* All Stand & Sing



1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,



and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.



In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.



then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the solar systems, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries, particularly S.O.C.K.S and the BCO. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The assembly remains standing..

OFFERING PRAYER

A Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Pastor *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Cong.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *All Sing*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. 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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

C Thanks be to God.



LAMB OF GODAll Sing

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

POSTLUDE: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory.* *Battle Hymn*

COMMUNION

During Communion we will be dismissed by rows, starting in the front. You will receive the elements from the table by the door, and take them to your car to eat. We will finish the worship liturgy and be dismissed there. You may stand outside your car or be seated inside. You should be able to hear the worship leader through your radio on 89.5 fm.

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Jesus, Bread of life,

C **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

• A special thanks to the musical leadership of our cantor, Jim Buell, and to prelude organist Suzanne Fairbairn.

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Holy Doodles



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Greg Cline, Organist/Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

Dona Martell, Office Manager