

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 14, 2023 •

## Sixth Sunday of Easter



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *As a Mother Comforts Her Child*

*Meditation*

As a mother comforts her child,  
so God will comfort you.  
As a hen gathers her brood,  
so Christ will gather you.  
As a wise one counsels her friend,  
so the Spirit will counsel you.  
The Trinity of love will be with you.

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C** Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

**P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C** Amen.

**GATHERING SONG:** *Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## 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

*All Sing*

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

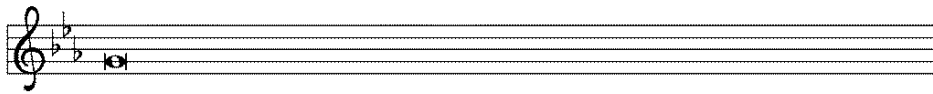
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



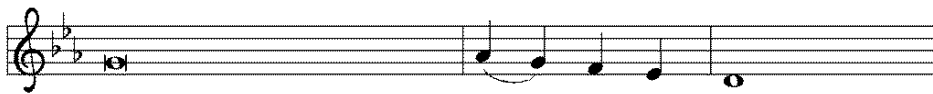
*P* For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



*C* Lord, have mer - cy.



*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 mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



*C* Lord, have mer - cy.



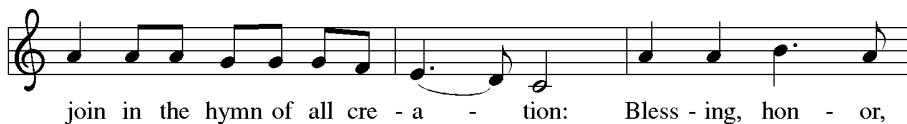
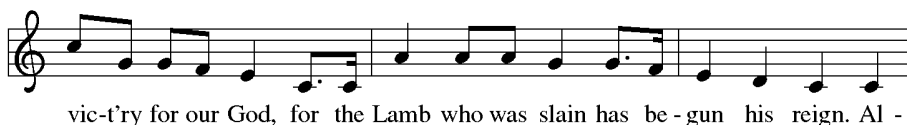
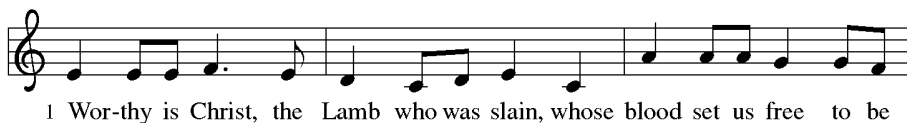
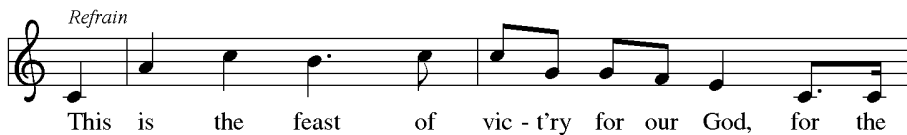
*P* Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



*C* A - men, a - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*All Sing*





## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## FIRST READING

**Acts 17:22-31**

A reading from Acts, the seventeenth chapter.

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an

unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved

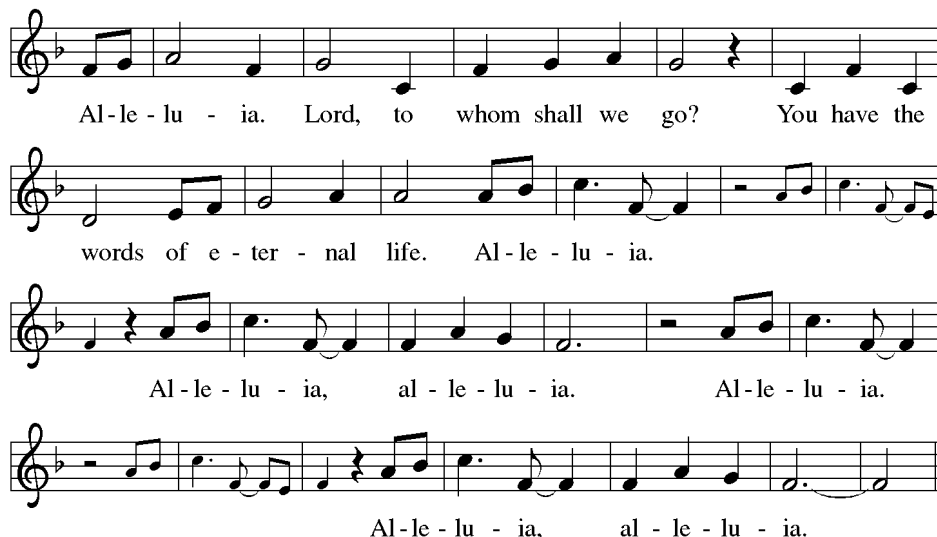
through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All Stand & Sing*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**John 14:15-21**

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

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

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will



no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated*

**SERMON**

Pastor Tim Canniff-Kuhn

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: We Know That Christ Is Raised**

*All Stand & Sing*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

## **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**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**



# OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Touch That Soothes*

*Church Choir Sings 1 & 2  
Congregation Sings 3 & 4*



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that  
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it  
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's  
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the  
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and  
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of  
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:  
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.  
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.  
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

## *Refrain*



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Brittle, b. 1953  
Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMay, b. 1972  
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## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Loving Spirit*

*All Stand & Sing*



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with-in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro-ect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close-ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
hoist me up up - on your shoul-der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres-ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931  
Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1833  
Text © 1987 The Forum Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

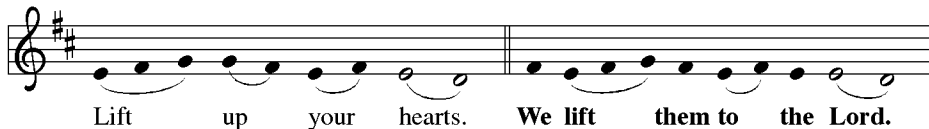
## DIALOGUE

*Pastor*

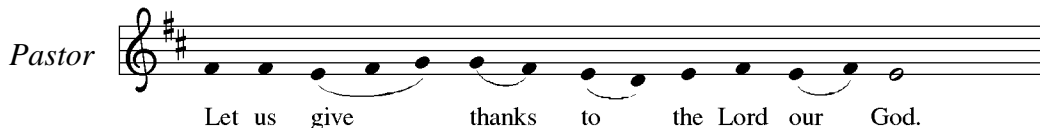
*Congregation*



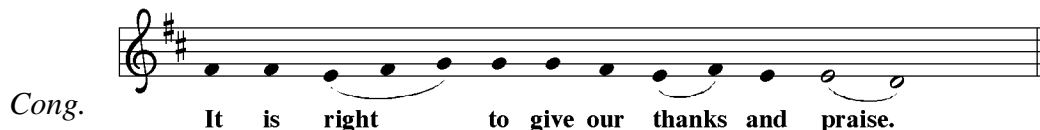
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



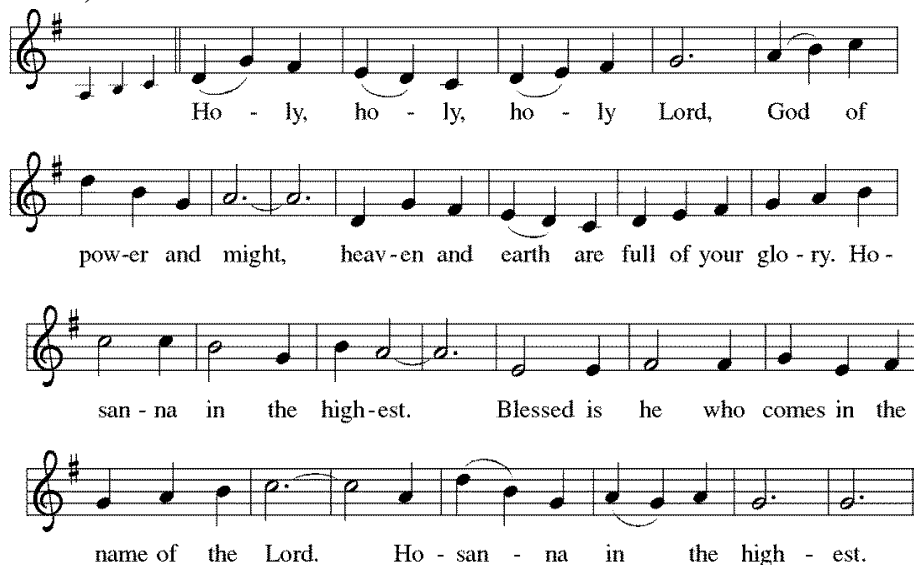
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C Thanks be to God.



## COMMUNION

*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

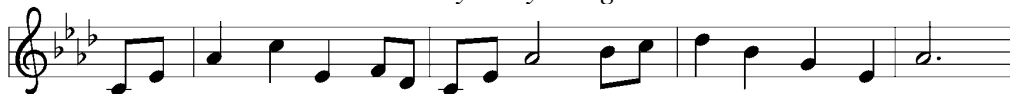
## LAMB OF GOD ..... All Sing

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff also ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final double bar line.

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.

# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Thy Holy Wings*

*All Sing*



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten-der care.  
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune  
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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

**C** **Amen.**



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Gracious God,

**C** in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

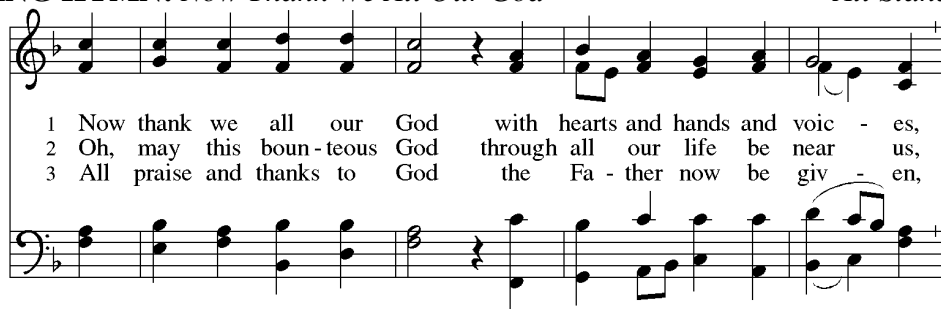
**P** The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**C** Amen.



# CLOSING HYMN: *Now Thank We All Our God*

*All Stand & Sing*




1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joice - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## **SENDING**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *“St. Anne” Variations*

*Ashdown*

\*Thank you to our lector, Julia Gunter.

### **This Weeks Schedule:**

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am – Worship w/ Holy Communion

**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Christian Education Meeting

**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Outreach Meeting

*\*No Church Choir Mother’s Day (today) or Memorial Day weekend*

### **Meet the Dwelling Travelers!**



Holy Comforter is excited to send a group of nine students and adults to the Dwelling this summer! July 23rd to 28th, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem. We are spotlighting each student over the upcoming weeks.

Hi, I’m Erin Cassel. I’m in 6th grade at Mountain Island Charter School. I have been a member since I was 3 years old. I am active in youth group, regularly acolyte, and help with our kid’s club kids on second Sundays. I like to help set up and lead activities during Children’s Church too. I play volleyball and do gymnastics, and just started volunteering with National Junior Honor Society when I am not at church. I want to go on this trip because, I want to make new friends.



**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor

Tim Canniff-Kuhn, Interim Pastor - email: [pastortimck@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimck@gmail.com)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager

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