Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 1, 2016

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

C Amen.

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of grace and glory,

C you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and \oplus frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

GATHERING SONG: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing All Stand & Sing



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188, All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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





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



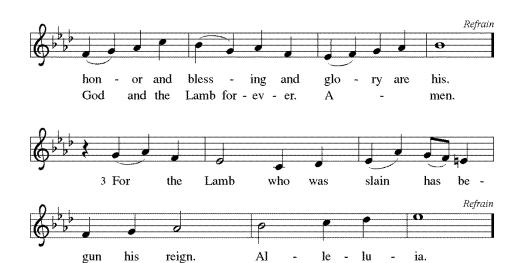












PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 are 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 Acts 16:9–15

A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to

receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

A reading from the twenty-first & twenty-second chapters of Revelation.

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But

nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL John 14:23–29

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and

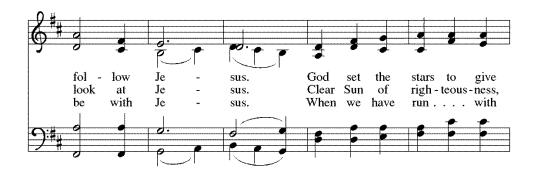
remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* All Stand & Sing (Members of the Children's Ensemble come to the balcony during the singing of the hymn)







Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, ruler of the nations, renew your call to all people. Raise up leaders who are eager to follow you into justice, love, and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nourish all lands through springs, rivers, lakes, pools, and irrigation systems. Produce abundant food by the flowing of your Spirit throughout creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Help us to extend your hospitality and inspire us to share the grace of Christ in places near and far. Use even small interactions to usher in peace for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send compassionate servants to those who live with health concerns in body, mind, or spirit. Deliver your healing and peace to all in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bear the burdens of people who long to work, yet remain unemployed or underemployed. Give them dignity when they seek help, and place them where their gifts may be used. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have given blessed salvation to all your saints. Thank you for writing our names also in the book of life. Make us Christ's presence for others while we await his coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

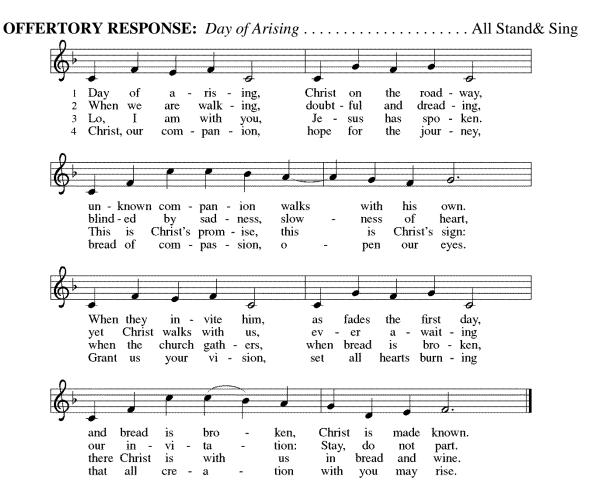
The assembly is seated.



OFFERING

(The Congregation is invited to participate in this familiar tune. Text by Daniel Hannemann.)

Sing your praise, Oh sing unto the Lord, Sing your praise by morning, noon, and night; Sing, sing to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and always.

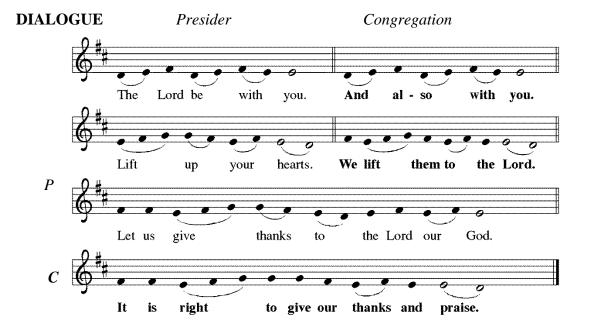


Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

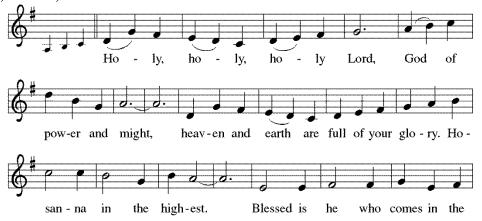


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





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

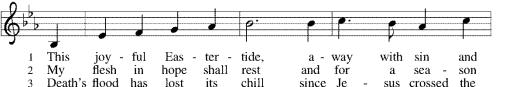
- P The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.
- C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: This Joyful Eastertide All Sing





Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
- C We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

- P The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of # Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Go, My Children, with My Blessing All Stand & Sing







In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**. 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 Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke & Alec Via in memory of Betty "G" King; and by Mark & Rebecca and Luke celebrating God for the blessing of Alec Via.

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

Offering and Attendance Report for April 24, 2016:

Attendance: 125

Budget Report	April 24, 2016
Current Offering Received	\$ 3,607.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 89,863.25
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 9,599.86
Offering less Expenses Year-To-Date	\$ 7,406.56

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Kathy Graves

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)

Shelia Kelly Jack Tench

Jo Singleton Volunteer

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 1-7

Today, May 1 Katie Kessen

May 2 Lucy Bocchino

May 3 Sonja Kreitzer

May 4 Dariel Rogers

May 5 Thomas Bocchino

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin
Bill Hollar

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

USHERS: Need Volunteers

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

Toddlers: Lorry Caldwell

May 7 Dianne Lail

Maria Carr

Infants: Staff

Alec Via



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, May 1

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service with

Holy Communion

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, May 3

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Property Committee

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 4

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, May 5

6:00 pm Stewardship Committee

Saturday, May 7

10:45 am **HCY** meets at the church to go to *Faith Farm* in Dallas for a

Day of Service!

Bring a bag lunch. Drinks provided. Parents welcome.

7:00 pm Staying Connected

Meets at the church to plan for upcoming projects &

events.



Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School 2016

DATE: June 26-29th • 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our Vacation Bible School program will allow children to submerge themselves in God's Word. They will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth!



A quick meal will be provided, then the children rotate through activities of play, studying scripture, singing, and art. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. Information about registering will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping with the program, you would be welcomed, whether it's providing a meal or assisting with one of the activity stations. **More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.** Contact Melissa Bocchino at Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.



Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape* the week of July 18-22. Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again include 6th-rising 8th graders. The kids in this age 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 in the narthex or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator



BCO item for the month:Spaghetti Sauce





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Brenda Dabrowski Shawn De Nicholas Ardean Ewing Dot Holland

Zack Hullander

Tom Irwin Chase Lineberger Holly Peche Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Mark Reese

Beverley Reynolds Anna Spikes Jack Tench & Family Kevin Washle

Julio Quiros

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy Harriett Ange Paige Beaver Jenny Beer Barbara Bingham Graham Brezler Libby Byrum Father Frank Cancro

Tina Capwell Clell Davis J. Don Devine Zachary Evans Jamev Gardner Poss Garrett Ronnie Garrison Tammy Gordon

Beau Carroll Matt Cisek Jason Gardner

Brian Hedrick Sam Holloway Stacy Hunsucker Dennis Jordan Steven Keating Marshall Kinley Jennifer Lineberger Terry Mahaffey Al McCoy Clay McCoy Gene McRorie Don Moore Jean Peters Jim Poag **Taylor Propst & Family David Prouty**

OUR SERVICEMEN Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer

Dan Robinson and Daughters Breanna & Mikayla Anna Rudder Tangie Shingler Megan Sigler E. Taylor & Family Carson Thomas Sally Vanhoy Pat Via Gloria Ward Pastor Gary Weant Olivia Wilcox Jeff Wiles

Bruce Zander

Mike Kelso



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

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

Sunday School Attendance April 24, 2016



	Children	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	0	2
Pre-School	3	1
Lower Elem.	3	1
Upper Elem.	6	1
Middle School	2	1
High School		
Seekers		5
Adult Bible Class		13
Totals:	14	24

Saturday, May 7th, our HCY will join the youth from Good Shepherd for a **Day of Service!**

Our youth will meet at the church at 10:45 am to depart for *Faith Farm* in Dallas, a transitional housing program for female Veterans run by Lutheran Services Carolinas. During the day we will help spruce up the exterior of the home...pulling weeds, planting flowers, and trimming bushes ...just a few things on the agenda. This will be



a great chance for our youth to give back and learn about an important program for Veterans provided by our Lutheran Church! *Parents are welcome and encouraged* to attend. Please bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. We should finish and return to the church around 2:15 pm.

Pentecost Picnic!

Saturday, May 14 • 4:00 pm-7:00 pm • at the church



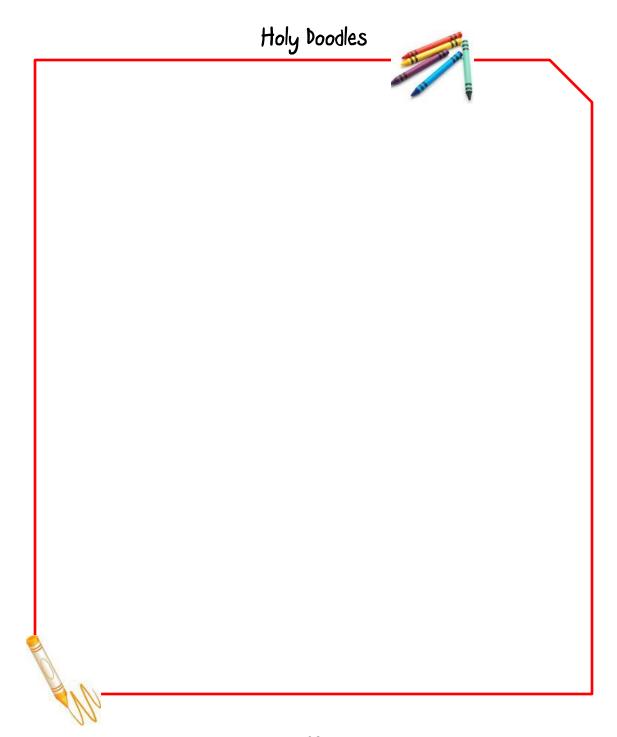
All food provided.

Bring a dessert. Bring a friend.

Bouncy slide for children.



If you would like to help set up, contact Tom Bocchino at Tbocchino@hotmail.com or 704-616-3049





The 2016 Flower Chart is available in the narthex.

There are still some Sundays available for you to provide altar flowers.

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

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
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager