

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 1, 2013

## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst  
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### 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: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;  
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of overflowing grace,

**C we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.  
Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on  
fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from  
the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

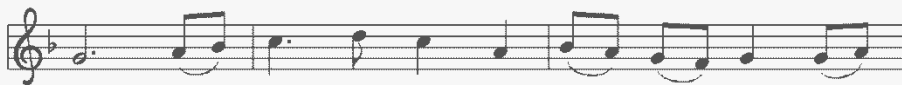
P There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ  
Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free.  
Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and  
forever.

**C Amen.**

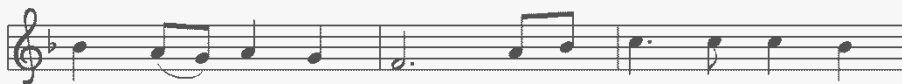
# GATHERING SONG: *All Are Welcome* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

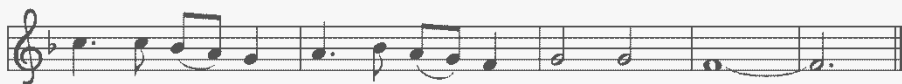


vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



*Refrain*

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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

**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,


  
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

*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:

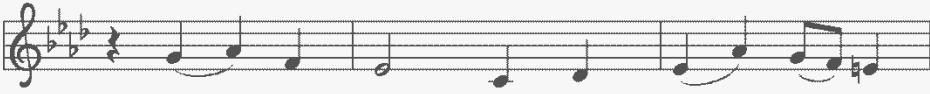


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to


*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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## 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 nursery**.

## FIRST READING

**Proverbs 25:6–7**

A reading from the twenty-fifth chapter of Proverbs.

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

“Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great;  
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16**

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews.

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

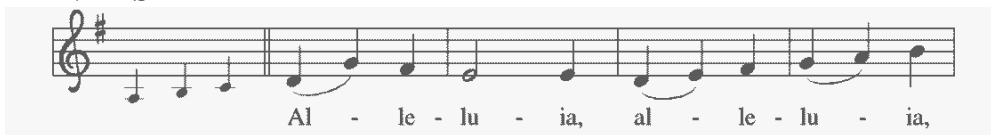
What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE





## GOSPEL

**Luke 14:1, 7–14**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.*

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."



<sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the

righteous."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

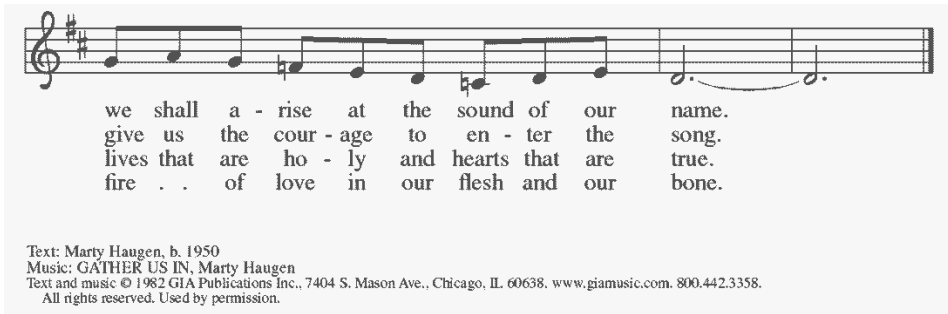
**SERMON:** *Advice from Emily Post and Jesus* (Notes: Page 19) . . . . . Pastor John

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Gather Us In* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,  
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.  
Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and  
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,





we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen  
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## 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need,  
 and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

O wise and wonderful God, continually turn the hearts of your people back to you. Mold  
 the church to be your gracious, merciful, and righteous presence in the world. Hear us, O  
 God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Fill all banquet tables with the bounty that you raise up in your creation. Feed all people with food that will sustain them, even as you feed them with your compassion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit of humility to the halls of legislation, governance, and justice in every land. Stir up in leaders and citizens a will to serve, and let your peace reign. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Raise up people who will extend your hospitality to those in prisons, in hospitals, and in situations of abuse. Give to all who suffer your lasting comfort. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire contentment in all who have employment; grant your provision to those who are unemployed or underemployed. Create new opportunities for all to earn their livelihood. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Remembering the saints who pointed us to Christ in the past, we beg for his presence among us today, while we long for the day when he will make all things new. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Give Us Peace) . . . . . Traditional

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Let the Vineyards . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are aligned with the notes below each staff.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

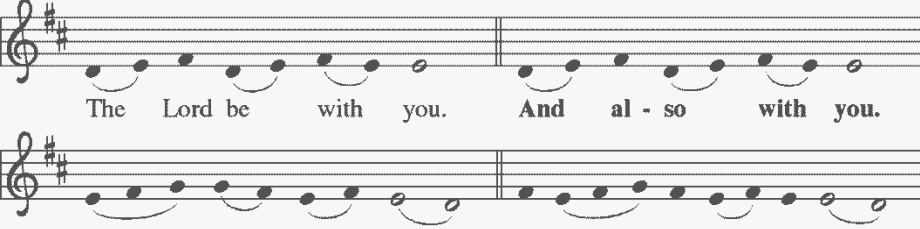
A Let us pray.

C God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

**DIALOGUE**

*Assistant*

*Congregation*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The dialogue is written on two staves in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The Assistant's part is on the first staff, and the Congregation's part is on the second staff. The lyrics are aligned with the notes below each staff.

A

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### PREFACE

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

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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,

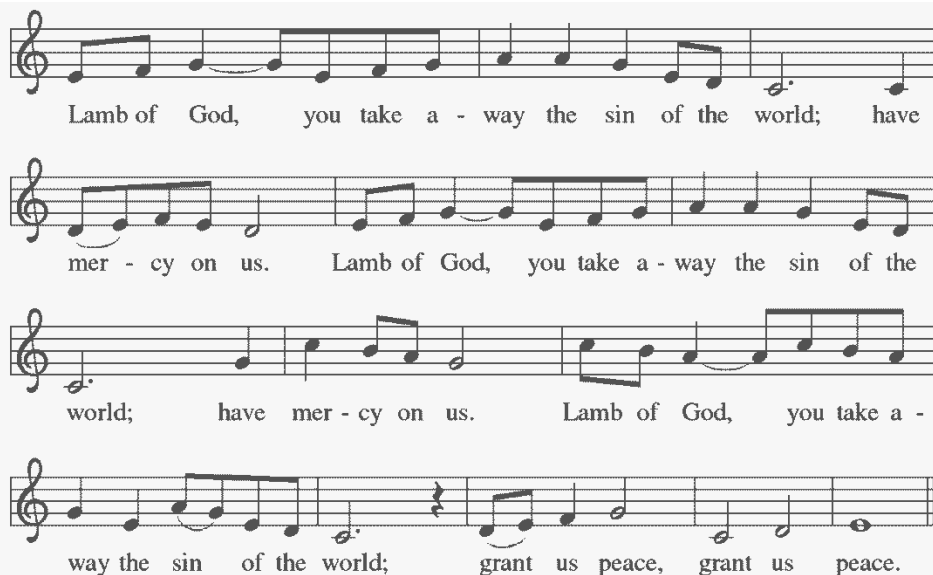
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Take hold of the life that really is life. Come, take your place at the table.

C Thanks be to God.

### COMMUNION SONG



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.

### COMMUNION

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



# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* . . . . . All Sing

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth-er, for when hum-bly  
 2 As dis-ci-ples used to gath-er in the name-of  
 3 All our meals and all our liv-ing make as sac-ra-

in your name two or three are met to-geth-er,  
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv-er  
 ments of you, that by car-ing, help-ing, giv-ing,

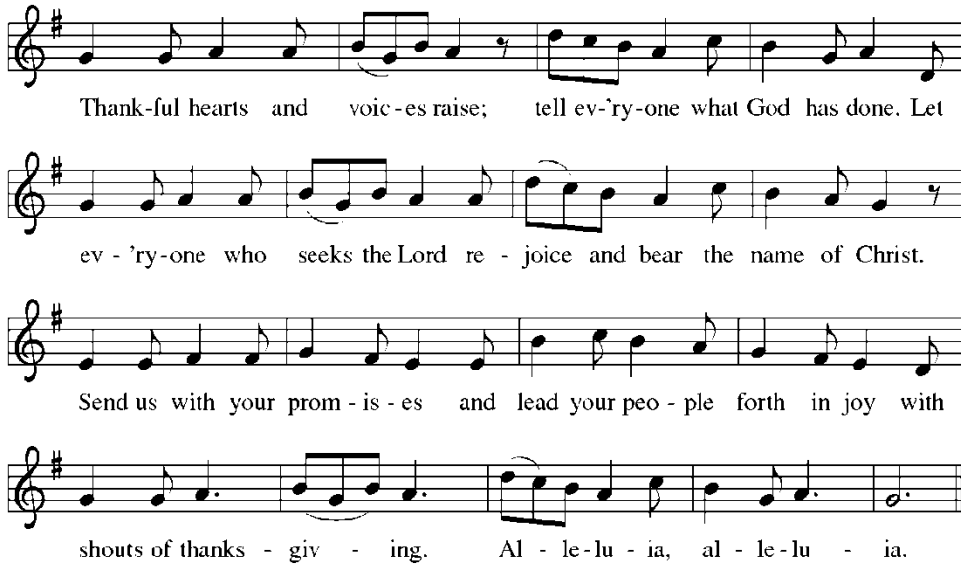
you are in the midst of them. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al-le-lu-ia!  
 we may be dis-ci-ples true. Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Touch we now your gar-ment's hem.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! so now bind our friend-ship up.  
 Al-le-lu-ia! We will serve with faith a-new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.  
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905-1958  
 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.  
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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

### SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray.

**C** We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### BLESSING

**P** God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING SONG: *Lift High the Cross* ..... All Stand & Sing

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947  
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## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. 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.**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in memory of her father, A. O. Lail; and by Charles & Bev Mauney in memory of Heather Mauney Yount.

**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, August 25, 2013:**

Attendance: 151

**Budget Report**

Current Offering Received 8/25/13  
Total Current Offering, Y-T-D (1/1/13-8/25/13)  
Expenses, Year-To-Date

**August 25, 2013**

\$ 3,177.25  
\$152,460.32  
\$136,904.91

The Current Offering Received for the year through August 25, 2013 is \$15,555.41 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

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**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr. + Julia Gunter

**ACOLYTES:** Matthew Carr  
Ashton Nault

**CRUCIFERS:** Madison Carr  
Nick Ashe

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)  
Louise Day, Co-Captain  
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain  
Nancy Powell                Becky Richards

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**  
Need Volunteers For September

**EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:**  
Need Volunteers For September

**GREETERS:** The Causbys

**USHERS:** Charles Mauney  
+ Volunteer/s

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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, September 1**

9:30 am    Sunday School  
10:10 am   Church Choir  
10:30 am   The Service w/Holy Communion

**Tuesday, September 2**

7:00 pm    Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon

6:00 pm    Church Choir  
8:00 pm    Nar-Anon

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 1-7**

September 2   Preston Baker  
                     Jane Deaton

September 4   Deborah Bingham



September 5   Taylor Burwell  
September 7   Elizabeth Bruchon

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**September 8, 9:30 am in the fellowship hall: *Vis de Cristo*** (Way of Christ) – truly, a Spirit-led gift of grace! Come and hear about it from Pastor John and others who have experienced this weekend of grace. The Adult as well as the Seekers classes will be joining in this “special class.” **EVERYONE COME!** Bring a friend.

## “Advice from Emily Post and Jesus”

Luke 14:1, 7-14

### Table manners from Emily Post (updated for 2013):

- Chew with your mouth shut
- Avoid slurping, smacking & blowing your nose
- Don't shovel your food in
- No texting during the meal
- Avoid slouching or putting your elbows on the table
- Don't reach across the table; ask for something
- Say “excuse me” if you need to get up

### Table manners from Jesus:

- Advice for the guests: be humble
- Advice for the host: reach beyond the predictable

### Applying God's Word ...

- ✓ A welcoming smile & “hello” to those you don't know
- ✓ Cross generational “lines” to get to know another
- ✓ Reaching out to the “unpopular” youth or work associate
- ✓ Inviting a neighbor or friend to Church



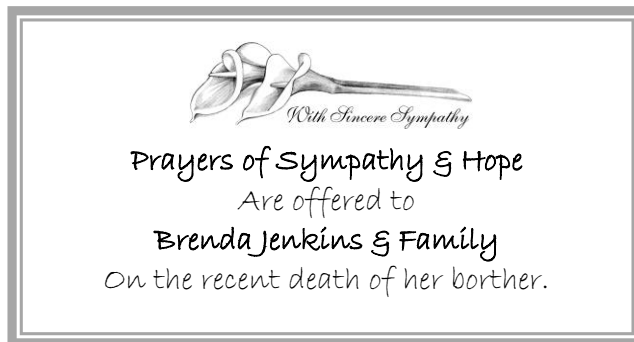
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*“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.” ~C.S. Lewis*

*“Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds?  
Lay first the foundation of humility.” ~St. Augustine*

*“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”  
~Jesus (Matthew 18:4)*

*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”  
~St. Paul (Ephesians 4:2)*





## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin  
Virginia P. Crump  
Daniel Dowd  
Gayla Foscue

Ferrie Hedrick  
Richard Holden  
Zac Hullander  
Lee Ireland

Brenda Jenkins &  
Family  
Chase Lineberger  
Liz Propst

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam  
Dale Burris  
Ceci Colbert  
Joyce Davis  
Brian Hedrick  
Ms. Frankie Hedrick  
Kathy Helton  
Betty Fox

Brenda Jenkins  
Betty Kannapel  
Paul Outlaw  
Jean Peters  
Taylor Propst & Family  
Steve Sanford  
Ramona J. Sinclair  
Rose Strait

Family of Ruth Surratt  
Jimmy Surratt  
Buck Weatherford  
Junior Westmorland  
Beverly F. Wall  
Gloria Ward



## OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll (Honduras)

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

Jeremy Shaver

Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know** or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex.

### Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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

Website: [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org)