Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 23, 2018

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

Micah Kearney Pastor

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Tune in F*..... Helman

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 \pm holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: God is Here! All Stand & Sing





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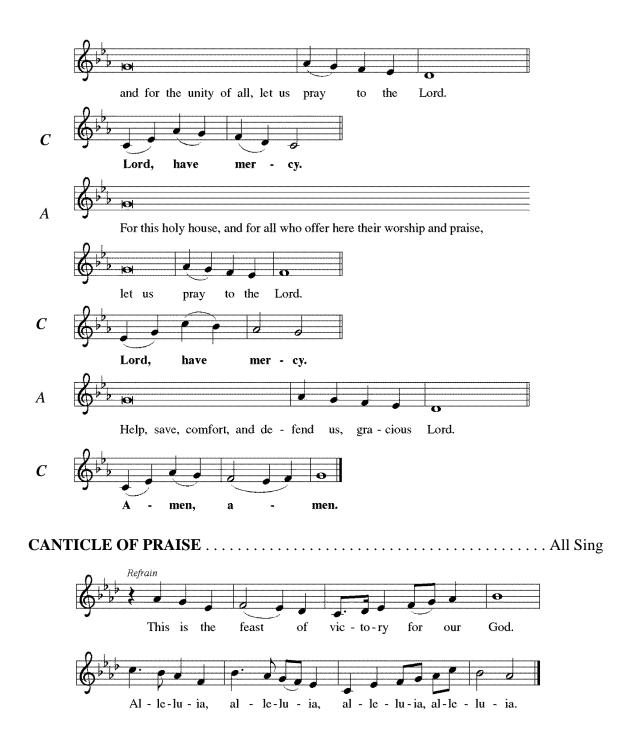
GREETING

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. С 1 Lord, have mer . cy. A H For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. С Lord, have mer cy. ю A

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Jeremiah.

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.
¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"
²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them,

for to you I have committed my cause.

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

SECOND READING:

A reading from the third chapter of James.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4: 1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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



GOSPEL VERSE

GOSPEL

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: All Are Welcome All Stand & Sing





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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INSTALLATION OF PARISH NURSE

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

PEACE

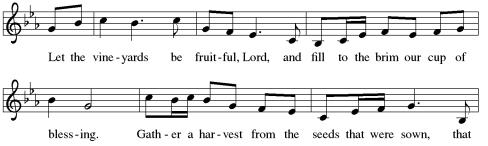
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

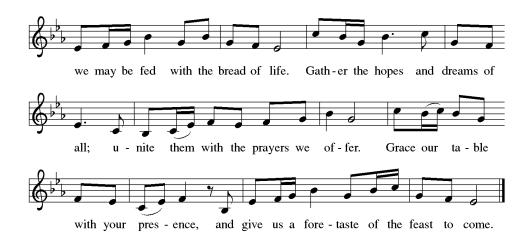
The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Down to the River to Pray Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Let the Vineyards All Stand & Sing





OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

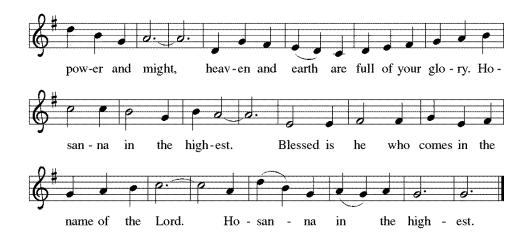
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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







WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

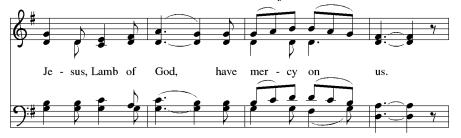
- P Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.
- C Thanks be to God.

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: Jesus, Lamb of God All Sing









Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press. Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

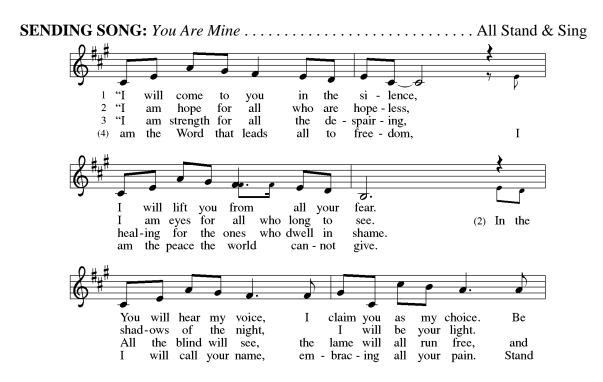
A Let us pray.

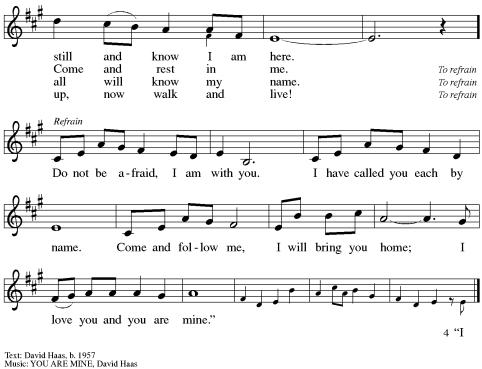
C Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

BLESSING

P God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.





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SENDING

- Go in peace. Sound the good news. А
- С Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Te Deum Charpentier

Organist, Suzanne Fairbairn

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Eighteenth 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are 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 <u>www.holyc.org</u>.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Bev & Charles Mauney in celebration of their 32nd wedding anniversary and in honor of their family.

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 September 16, 2018:

Services cancelled due to storm Florence.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 23-29 Today, Mary Page September 2

Anne Reese Rebecca Yount September 25 Harold Singleton September 26 Warren Heller Henrik Sarrazin



September 28 Leo Kasmer James Milton Beth Passer George Roberson September 29 Claire Mitchell

ASSISTING MINISTERS: LECTOR: Billy Joye

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers **GREETER:** Pat Long

TELLERS: Shelia Kelly Tim Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland & Tracey Nault, Co-Captains Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B) Barb Kasmer Shelia Kelly Tim Kelly

EUCHARISTS PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Sunday, September 23 8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion Installation of Parish Nurse Meet & greet in Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Beka Forst

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am) Brandy Milton

USHERS: Volunteers

Tuesday, September 25 7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, September 26

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

HEALTH MINISTRY * Meet and Greet * You're Invited!! Meet the new Parish Nurse and the members of the Health Ministry committee. Enjoy refreshments! Get your blood pressure checked. Come one, come all – after the service TODAY!

Hosted by the Parish Nurse and Health Ministry committee, there will be a **flu vaccine clinic here on September 30, 2018** from 12-2 after the worship service. Sign up now to get your flu vaccine! You can contact your Parish Nurse, Teresa Keller, at 717-329-8507 or you can come to the Meet and Greet after today's service to sign up. Come now...help us keep everyone healthy this flu season!



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Carmen Buell Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Zac Hullander Jo Irwin

Marsha Kinley & Family Ben Moose Holly Peche Sherry Perry Pat Roberson Kathie Schaumburg Scott Schaumburg Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor **Beverly Reynolds** Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham Amy Beale Blythe **Doug Brewer** Karen de la Vega Carol Fox Larry "Poss" Garrett Brandi Hager Ruth Lail **Beverly Lineberger** Jennifer Lineberger **Ronnie Lunsford** Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy **George Rogers Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg** Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Tom Kasmer Beau Carroll

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker

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



Words of Sympathy & Hope

are offered to

Marsha Kinley & Family

On the death of her father

Plato Marshall Kinley





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