

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 23, 2017

## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *My Hope is Built* ..... Tune: Solid Rock

### 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, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C Amen.**

**P** Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Eternal God our creator,

**C** in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**P** Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast . . . . . All Stand & Sing*

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
 that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.  
 Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

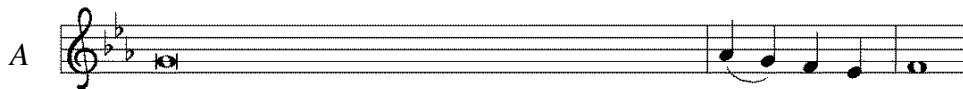
## KYRIE

**A**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**

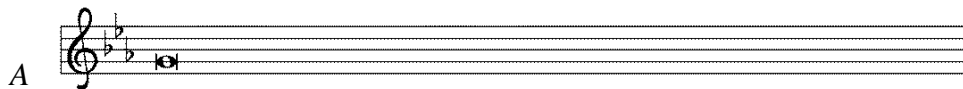
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

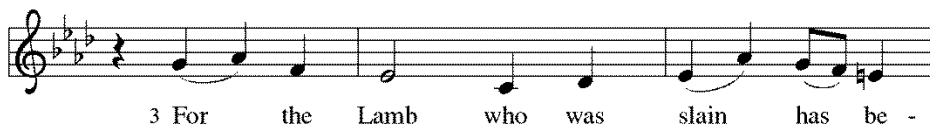
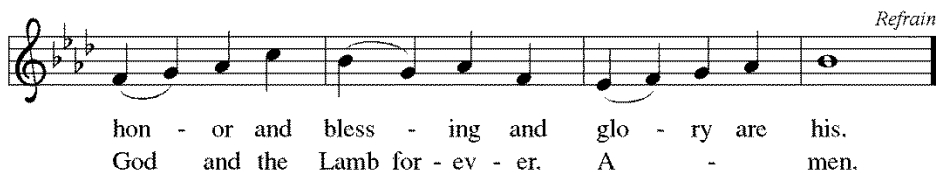
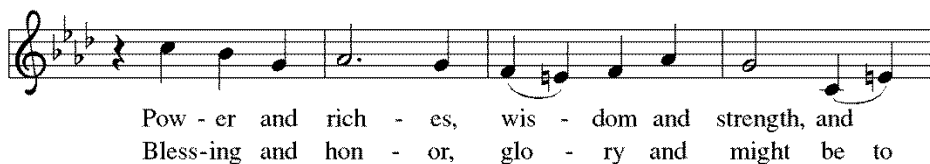
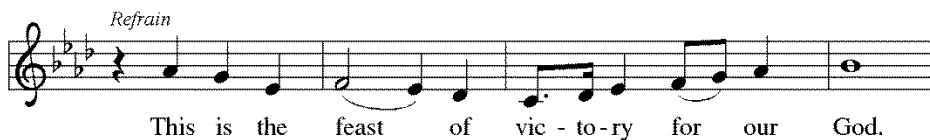


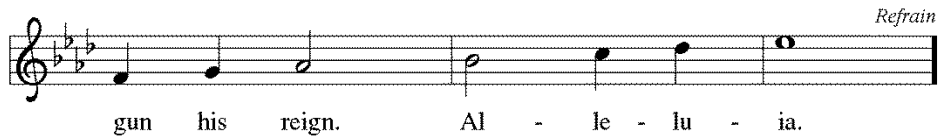
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE ..... All Sing





## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way 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

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

A reading from the forty-fourth chapter of Isaiah.

*God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel’s redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8:12-25**

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

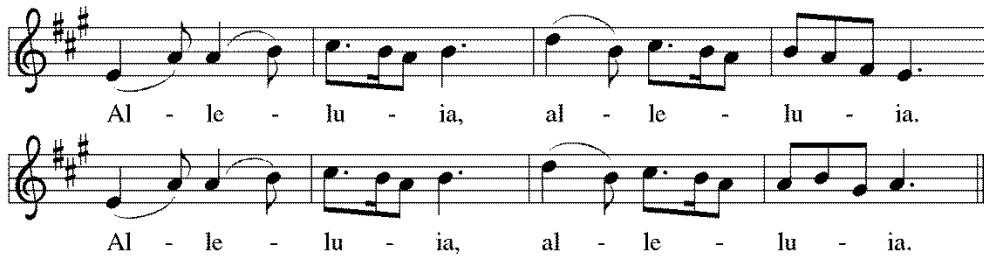
*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

## GOSPEL VERSE



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

*Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”



<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire,

where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"


P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.


*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah


HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

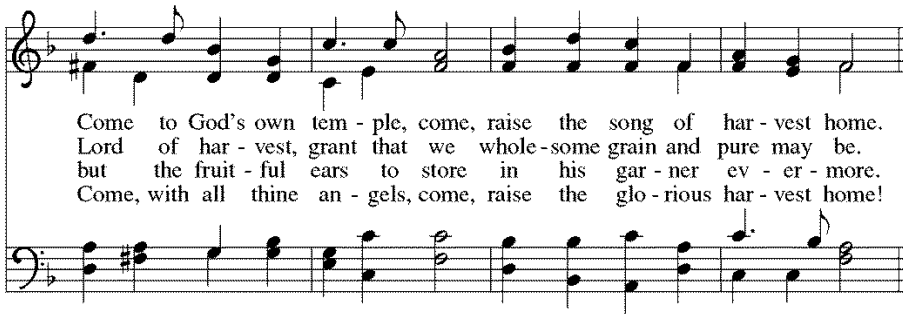


All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.





Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871. alt.  
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

## 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

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

*A brief silence.*

Enliven your church with love for your world, O God. Give undivided hearts to Christians from Africa and the Americas, Asia and Europe. Make us one in faithful witness to your will. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Renew the life of this earth, O God, even as it groans because of misuse and decay.  
Cultivate in us an eager longing for a healthy and life-giving earth. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bridge the chasms that divide the nations, O God. Inspire a reconciling vision among the world's leaders, and bring together people of differing commitments for the sake of the world's most vulnerable people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Embrace those who suffer, O God. Give peace to all who are near death, hope to those who are depressed, shelter to the homeless, and healing to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Embolden our witness to your love, O God. Send us out into the world with courageous hearts, persistence, and holy wisdom. Inspire us to tend to and delight in our children's faith. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Raise up your saints, O God. Inspire us by the lives of all reformers and renewers of your church. Receive our thanks for the saints among us who have recently died (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

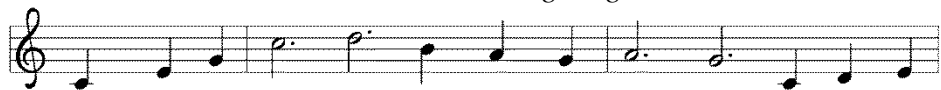
**C** And also with you.

*The assembly is seated.*

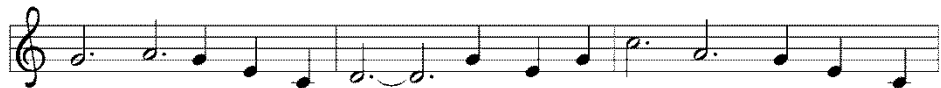
## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Great is the Lord* . . . . . Church Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Praise and Thanksgiving* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune  
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

*Presider*

*Congregation*



|                 | <i>Presider</i> | <i>Congregation</i>            |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Lift            | up your hearts. | We lift them to the Lord.      |
| <i>P</i> Let us | give            | thanks to the Lord our God.    |
| <i>C</i> It is  | right           | to give our thanks and praise. |

## 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**

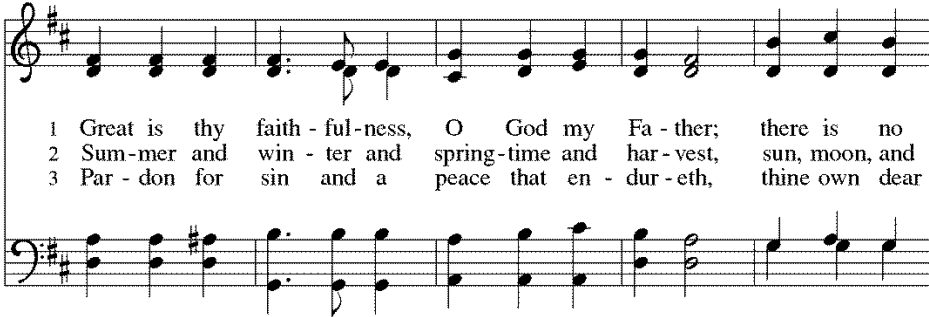
**P** Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together.

**C** Thanks be to God.

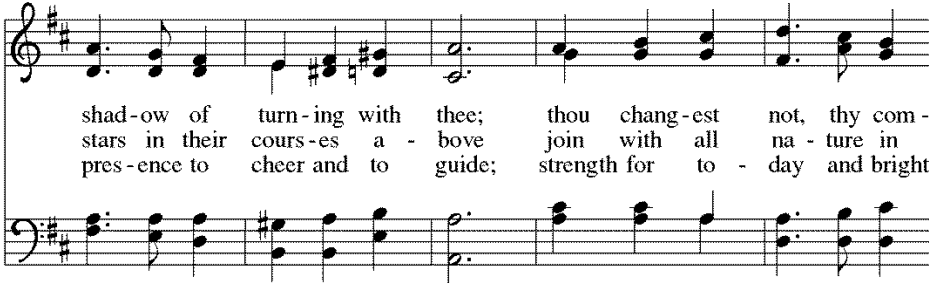
## **COMMUNION**

*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.*

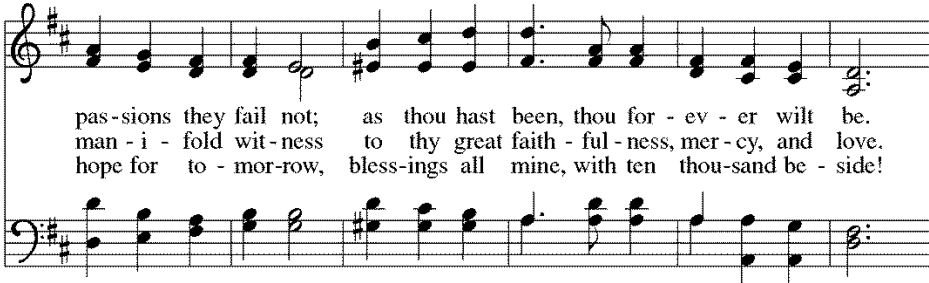
**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* . . . . . All Sing**



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

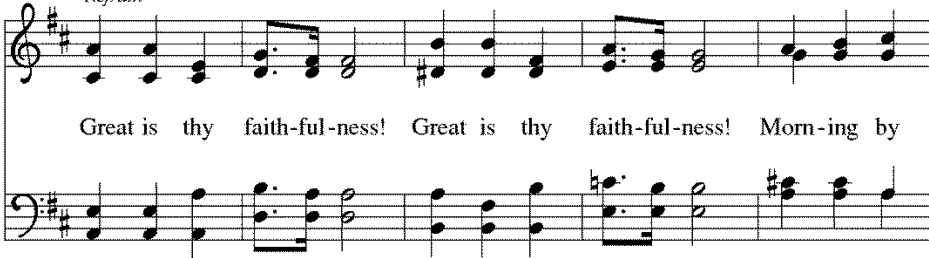


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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**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** Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING SONG: *Spread, Oh, Spread Almighty Word . . . . . All Stand & Sing*

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.  
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race  
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,  
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to all.  
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.  
let the gath - ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

The image shows a musical score for a sending song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains four lines of lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## SENDING

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Seventh 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 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Carmen and Jim Buell in honor of their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

### **Offering and Attendance Report for July 16, 2017:**

Attendance: 111

#### **Budget Report**

|                                 | <b><u>This Week</u></b> | <b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offering                        | \$ 6,674.00             | \$ 148,836.55              |
| Expenses                        | \$ 5,656.42             | \$ 156,517.16              |
| Offering less Expenses          | <u>\$ 1,017.58</u>      | <u>(\$ 7,680.61)</u>       |
| Budgeted Expenses               |                         | <u>\$ 159,991.54</u>       |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses |                         | (\$ 11,154.99)             |

### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK:**

July 24 Cathleen Allen  
July 25 Braydon Alvarez  
July 26 Emilie Bruchon  
Gary Clark  
Bryant Deaton  
July 29 Ardean Ewing



**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Volunteers

**EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

Volunteers

**GREETER:** Pat Long

**TELLERS:** Fran Holland  
Trudy Whitener

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Jill Cassel

**USHERS:** Volunteers

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, Sunday, July 23**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

2:00 pm **HCY** meets at church to carpool to  
the Clark's home to go tubing.  
Dinner provided

**Tuesday, July 25**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Thursday, July 27**

7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting



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**BCO July Items of the Month**



Peanut butter



Saltines



Tuna



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone  
Kay Holden

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Family & Friends of  
Pauline Joye  
Family & Friends of  
Stan Lahr  
Chase Lineberger

Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry  
Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Marsha Barr  
Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Midge Cunningham  
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox  
Scott Frisk  
Bill Hinkle  
Glenda Hinkle  
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy  
Karen Wayt  
Donnie Yavelak

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer



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 located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

### Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street 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**

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: [MicahKearney@gmail.com](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)



## Holy Doodles



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers and cards during my medical emergency. It was scary, but the surgery went well and due to timing, my appendix was removed quickly so I had no infection. I am fortunate and thankful. I'm finally feeling much better and back to work.

Thank you again!  
Sincerely Tim Kelly