

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 30, 2022 •

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *O That I Had a Thousand Voices* . . . . . Manz

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Christ Be Our Light. . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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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..... *All Sing*

**A**




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**



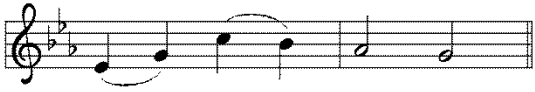
Lord, have mer - cy.

**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,

**C**




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,

**C**



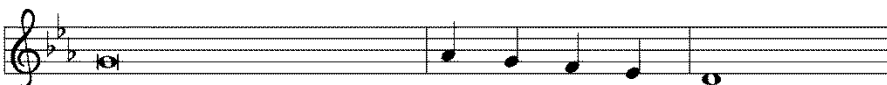
let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



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

C



A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE ..... *All Sing*

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



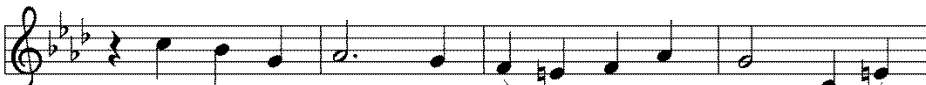
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



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



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 -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

A reading from the first chapter of Jeremiah.

*God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.*

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”  
<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to me,  
 “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;  
 for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
 and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
<sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them,  
 for I am with you to deliver you,  
 says the Lord.”  
<sup>9</sup>Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,  
 “Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
<sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
 to pluck up and to pull down,  
 to destroy and to overthrow,  
 to build and to plant.”

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

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians.

*Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

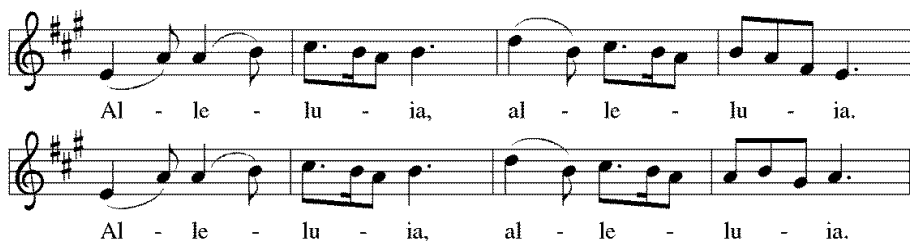
<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we

prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# **GOSPEL VERSE** ..... *All Stand & Sing*



## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 4:21-30**

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

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

*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.*

<sup>21</sup>Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in

Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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:** *Although I Speak With Angel's Tongue. . . . . All Stand & Sing*

1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my  
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er  
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions  
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to  
knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are  
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -  
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now  
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one  
vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.  
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.  
see: then we will see love face to face.  
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951  
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional  
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.



## 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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or brokenhearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your grace falls upon young and old alike. Bless the gifts of children in this congregation and in this community. Give us humble hearts to follow their leadership. Inspire us with their laughter, their insight, and their curiosity. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face. Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in the arms of your never-ending love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Brighter than Snow*. . . . . Church Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray.

**C** **Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

*Presider*

*Congregation*

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

Lift up your hearts. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY..... *All Sing*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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



### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.  
C Thanks be to God.

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

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**

*During communion the congregation will be invited forward by rows, starting in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You will then return to your seat where you may briefly remove your mask to eat and drink, and then quickly replace it. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.*

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    **We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P    God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.  
C    **Amen.**

**SENDING**

A    Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.  
C    **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Praise to the Lord.* . . . . . Dixon

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# Holy Doodles



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