

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 3rd, 2023 •

14th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *God the Savior*

Aria

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

All Stand & Sing

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score includes five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, the second system contains four lines, and the third system contains one line. The fourth system is the refrain, and the fifth system is the end of the song.

Text: Follott S. Pierpont, 1835-1917, alt.
Music: D.S. Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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



P

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C

Lord, have mer - cy.



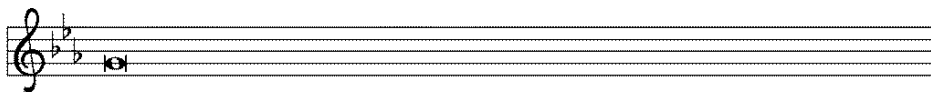
P

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



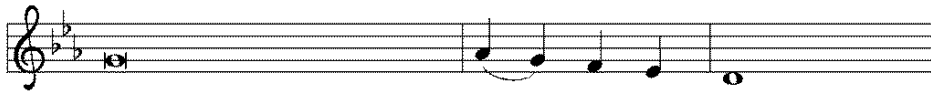
C

Lord, have mer - cy.



P

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.



P

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

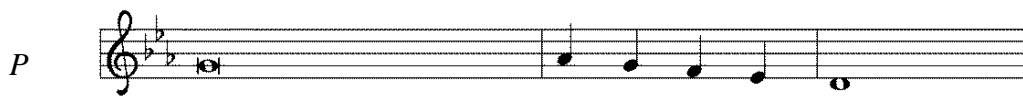


let us pray to the Lord.



C

Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men, a - men.

GLORIA

All Sing



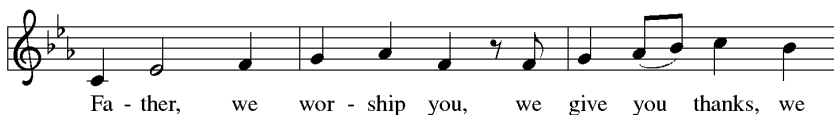
Glo - ry to God in the high -



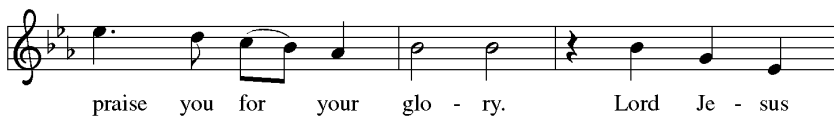
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah, the fifteenth chapter.

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All Stand & Sing

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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

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

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

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Deacon Beka

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

All Stand & Sing



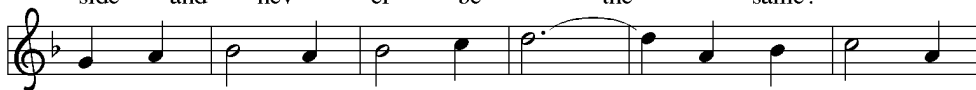
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -



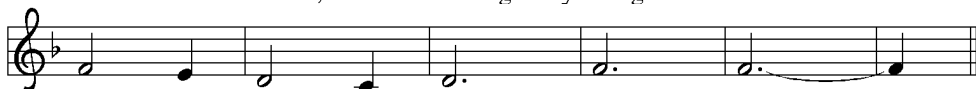
know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KEU VINGROVE, Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 First Community GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation,
and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you,
place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your
children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the
beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show
honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples
and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Making Their Way*

Vs 1 & 2 Church Choir
Vs 3 Congregation



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

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. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation

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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Detailed description: This block contains the first two lines of the dialogue. The first line is for the Pastor, with the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second line is for the Congregation, with the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' Both lines are written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Pastor

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Detailed description: This block contains the Pastor's line, written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'

Cong.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains the Congregation's line, written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are '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.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '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 Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace.
You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able.
You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink.
You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

LAMB OF GOD All Sing

A musical score for the hymn "Lamb of God". It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all using a treble clef. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

All Sing



1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love.



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Secours de Jésus and L'Arche Community in Stephen Soreville's, 1991
Music: Les Petites Secours de Jésus, Les Petites Secours de Jésus and L'Arche Community
First published in 1987, Les Petites Secours de Jésus
© 1990 Stephen Soreville

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Gracious God,

C Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Let Streams of Living Justice*

All Stand & Sing



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whittle, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whittle.

SENDING

P Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life*

Wold

*Thank you to our lector, Sherry Alexander.

This Weeks Schedule:

Sunday, September 3rd

10:30 am – Worship

Wednesday, September 6th

7:00pm – Chamber Choir

Next Sunday is “God’s Work Our Hands”. We will have an abbreviated service, eat lunch, then will join in service together.

You can sign up in person on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or online through the weekly email or www.HolyC.org/Events.



"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give.**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

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holycomforter@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor – email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager

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