

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 6th, 2023 •

## 10th Sunday after Pentecost



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Wold

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*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, who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,


**C We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.


**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *We Come to the Hungry Feast*


*All Stand & Sing*



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever  
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

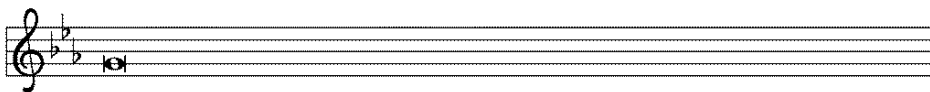


*P* For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



*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.



*P*

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** Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, 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

**Isaiah 55:1-5**

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty fifth chapter.

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## Romans 9:1-5

A reading from Romans, the ninth chapter.

*This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.*

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14:13-21**

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

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

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Break Now the Bread of Life*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you  
 2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you  
 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page  
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,  
 word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.  
 all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!  
 with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.  
 Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

**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**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You gather your church together by the Holy Spirit. Inspire all the baptized to proclaim your abundant love throughout the world. Guide us in the mission of the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You cherish your creation, from the smallest microbe to the largest mountain. Protect fragile ecosystems, send favorable weather, supply food and water to nourish creatures, and raise us up to care for all you have created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace and justice in the world. Instill within all political leaders your desire, support the work of international peace organizations, and provide relief for those in war-torn areas. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You comfort those who are hurting. Accompany those who are alone, heal those who are sick, provide for all who hunger or thirst, console the bereaved, bring joy to the sorrowful, and attend to all who call on you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You place us within communities for mutual support and love. Reveal yourself to us in worship, fellowship, and ministry with our neighbors. Provide for feeding ministries and food banks in our area, that we share your abundance with all who hunger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have placed before us examples of faithful living who have witnessed to your promises throughout time and space. Rouse us by their lives of service and dedication to be your hands and feet in this world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *What Does the Lord Require of You*

*Church Choir*

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice and love kindness  
and walk humbly with your God.

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *God of the Fertile Fields*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give: help us in

boun - teous hand, come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796  
Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Home Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 for the second part of the Dialogue. It is 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 for the second part of the Dialogue. It is 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 four staves 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 All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

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.*

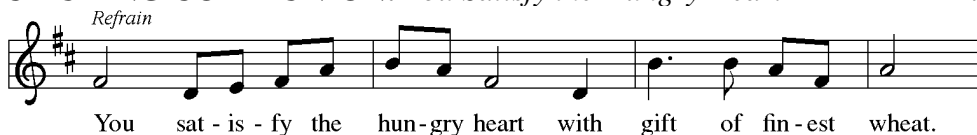
## LAMB OF GOD ..... All Sing

Musical notation for the hymn "Lamb of God". It consists of four staves of music in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). 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: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

*All Sing*



- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude  
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?  
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:  
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**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** We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: *Oh Living Bread from Heaven*

*All Stand & Sing*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE: *Menuet Gothique*

Boellmann

\*Thank you to our lector, Jan Buell.

## This Weeks Schedule:

### Sunday, August 6th

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

6:00 pm – Vacation Bible School (VBS)

### Monday, August 7th

6:00 pm – Vacation Bible School (VBS)

### Tuesday, August 8th

6:00 pm – Vacation Bible School (VBS)

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

### Wednesday, August 9th

6:00 pm – Vacation Bible School (VBS)

### Thursday, August 10th

10:30 am – Prime Timers



**"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**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483  
[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor – email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager

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