Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 24, 2019 •

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

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, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.
- C Amen.
- P Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

- P Mighty and loving God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.
- P Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Oh, Praise the Gracious Power All Stand & Sing



Announce the gospel to the world

and with these words rejoice: Refrain

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945 Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936 Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

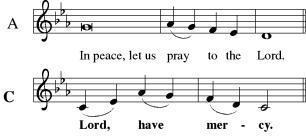
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,

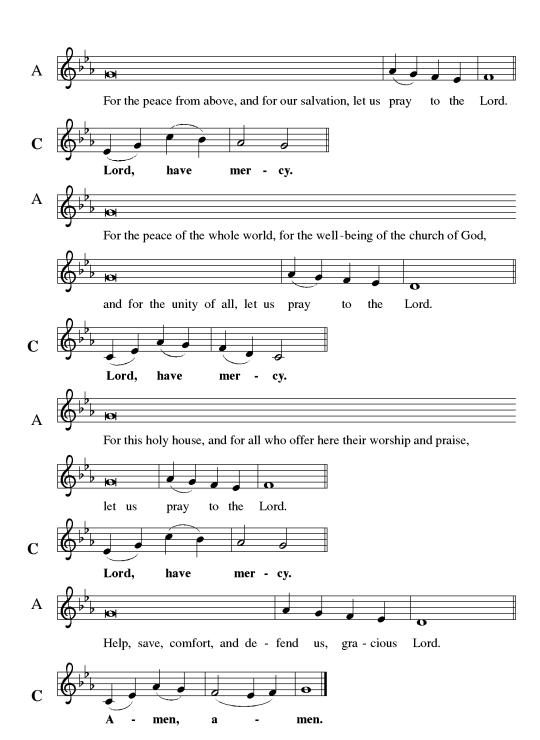
praise Christ the crucified: Refrain

GREETING

- P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE





GLORY TO GOD





SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 nursery.

FIRST READING Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from the forty-fifth chapter of Genesis.

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

0 #							
X #1H			•	lal			
	• •	2 0		N	• •	O	
7		<u> </u>	•				0

¹Do not be provoked by | evildoers;

do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

²For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.

³Put your trust in the LORD| and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴Take delight | in the LORD,

who shall give you your | heart's desire.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD, and see what | God will do.

⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.

⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall | be no more; even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;

they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

²⁹The righteous shall inher- | it the land, and dwell in | it for ever.

³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;

you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge.

SECOND READING

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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



GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

- P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

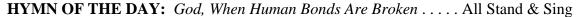
[Jesus said:] ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

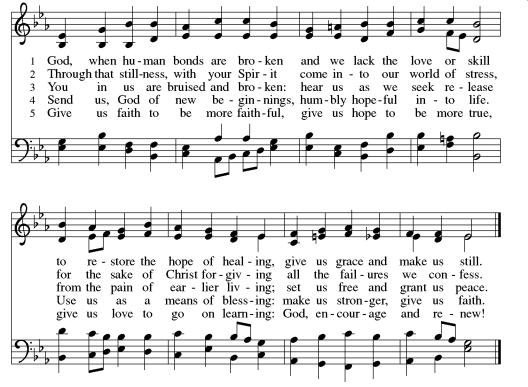
³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Silence is Kept for Reflection.





Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

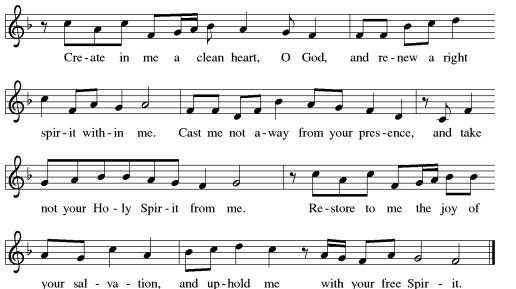
PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Seed That in Earth is Dying...... Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create In Me All Stand and Sing



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.



no - thing in this world can hide yet, though sin and hell as - sail still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESU, MINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

- A Go in peace. Sound the good news.
- C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2019. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National

Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **The Seventh Sunday** after the Epiphany. 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. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is 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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 17, 2019:

Attendance: 107

Budget Report	February 17, 2019	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 30,203.01
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$ 40,809.22
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 1,454.35)	(\$ 10,606.21)
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses		39,045.58
Offering less Expected Expenses	3	(\$ 8,842.57)

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, February 24:

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

Health Ministry session

after the service

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 26:

6:00 pm Worship & Music meeting

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 27:

5:00 pm Youth Handbells

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

WORSHIP & MUSIC: There are many opportunities to contribute to the worship services at Holy Comforter, so please join us **Tuesday**, **February 26 at 6:00 pm** if you are interested in serving our Church.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: February 24-March 2

February 27 Valerie Bruchon March 2 Khloe Tench



DEPRESSION SESSION TODAY – come join us in the fellowship hall immediately after worship for a brief session geared to inquire from you what you'd like to see the Health Ministry provide for you regarding the topic of depression. We all experience it at some time in our lives but there are differences between being low and blue and having clinical depression. Let's see what the Health Ministry can bring to you to help you with this topic. This session is where you help us figure out what you need most! Refreshments provided!



Are you looking for ways to get involved and share your time and talents with Holy Comforter?

Please join us for a **Volunteer Information Luncheon** on **March 10** after the service. At the meal, we will have presentations from each of the committees of the church and sign-up sheets for those who are interested in joining a group. Whether you have been a member for years, or are just joining the Holy Comforter family, there is a place for you to serve.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Zac Hullander Teresa Keller Sue Lahr Ben Moose Holly Peche Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Ron de la Vega Linda Cline Romania Cline Nancy Dickson Dallas Foscue Carol Fox Earl Gardner Larry "Poss" Garrett Meredith Hovis Steve Leonard Jennifer Lineberger Ronnie Lunsford Ruth Lyerly Cookie Lynn Jane Marino
Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
Richard Peters
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Jack Wade
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

one has a person who needs to be added or removed from the

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.



Arthritis Pain

Arthritis pain can be frustrating. And so is sorting through your pain relief options. To help you figure out the best means of relief, here are some answers to commonly asked questions:

1) Will physical activity make your arthritis worse?

If you already have joint damage, activities that add stress to your joints can make it worse, however minimal joint damage benefits from a gentle exercise program – especially one with stretching and muscle strengthening.

2) How can you reduce stiffness that comes from sitting a long time?

Adjust your position often – even slight movements can diminish pain and stiffness.

3) When does arthritis pain indicate you should call your doctor?

If you have new pain or unrelieved symptoms lasting more than several days – call your doctor.

4) Are alternative treatments helpful for arthritis pain?

It depends upon the treatment...for instance heat, massage and stretching have been known to help. Tai chi has been touted by many sufferers as providing benefit. A good rule of thumb: If it keeps you active, then it's helpful.

Come join us for PEP exercise classes – they're just right for joint pain sufferers!

Did someone say exercise?!? Yes! Three choices:

- PEP gentle, seated exercise (can also be done standing) for those with joint mobility issues OR those just needing a gentle jumpstart toward something more strenuous. Led by your Parish Nurse who is certified in this method of exercise. Begins March 21 @ 7:00 pm. No charge!
- 2. Tai Chi also gentle, standing (can also be done seated), flowing movements designed to strengthen your core muscles, improve your balance, tone and stretch your muscles. Led by a certified instructor hired for the job! Begins May 2 @ 7:00 pm. \$30 for the entire 6-week session.
- 3. Walk with God self-paced, autonomous program designed to give you incentive to MOVE! You'll get a packet with instructions and a health-related teaching module. Lots of incentives for extra mileage ANY moderately paced activity done for 20 minutes counts as a mile. Can we walk to the west coast and back? Let's try a little competition, perhaps? Begins **June 9. No charge!**



A signup sheet for the *Isle of Palms Retreat* is floating around the church. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay.

There are several **Sundays available** for you to honor a loved one by placing altar flowers in their name. You may choose one vase for \$22.50 or both vases for \$45.00.



Sign your name and the name of who you are placing the flowers in memory or in honor of at the date you choose. Make your check/payment to Holy Comforter and write on the memo line that it is for altar flowers. You may place your payment in the offering plate or take to the church office.

Signup sheet for altar flowers is in the rack located in the narthex. Please print plainly so proper credit can be given.

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 Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse



Holy Doodles



