Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 7, 2014

The Second Sunday in Advent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

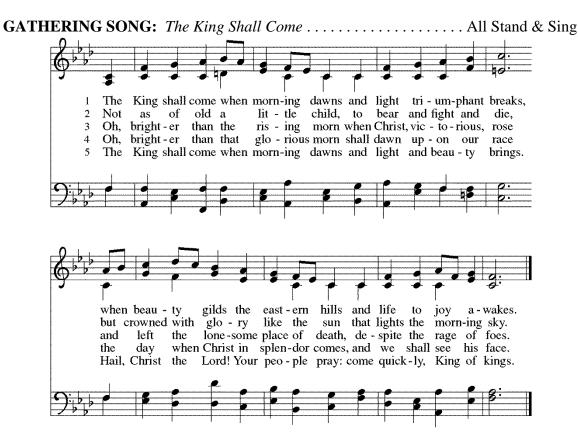
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.
- C Amen.
- P Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Faithful God.
- C we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen.
- P God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God.
- C Amen.

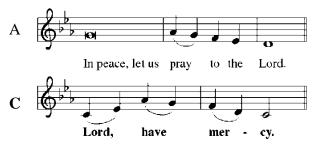


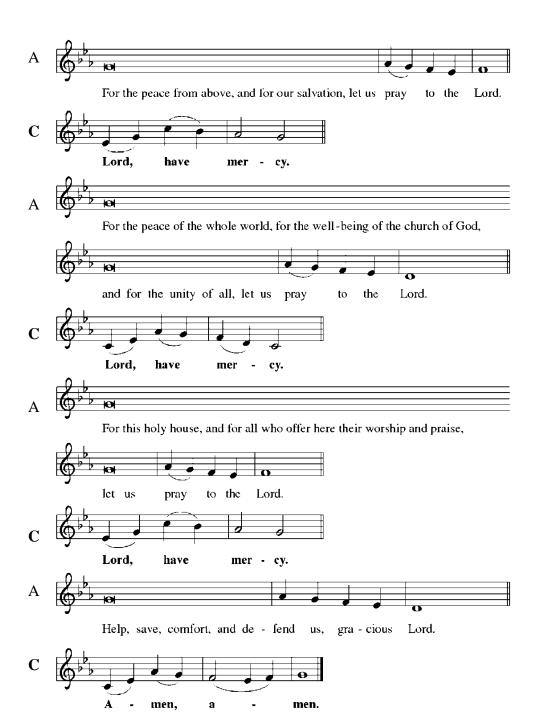
Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 Isajah 40:1–11

A reading from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah.

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, O comfort my people,

says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH: *Light One Candle* All Sing The second candle reminds us that Christ comes to bring **PEACE** to our hearts and minds as we pray for peace in the world.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8–15a

A reading from the third chapter of 2 Peter.

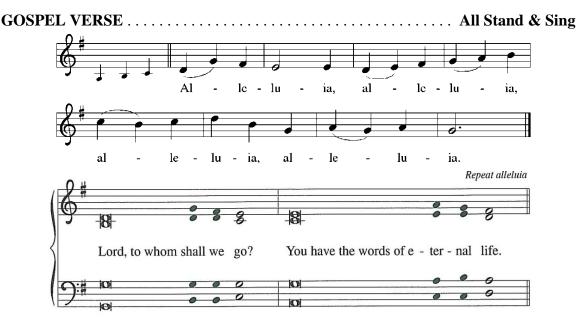
This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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



GOSPEL Mark 1:1–8

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,""

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the

people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



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



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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.

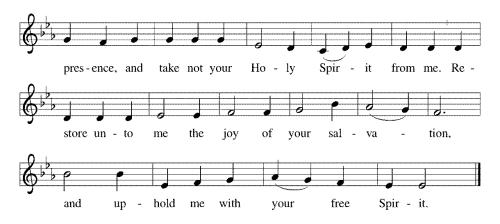
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Church Choir





^{*} catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

For the church, that it be a herald of glad tidings, announcing the good news that you are drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who strive for peace and an end to conflict and warfare, that righteousness find a home in their midst. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For wilderness and desert terrains, for mountains and plains, for fields fallow in winter, and for fruitful vegetation during these summer days in the Southern Hemisphere. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who are weighed down with economic instability, sorrow, anxiety, or sickness (*especially*), that you speak tenderly to them and comfort them in your compassionate embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, that in our busy and fast-paced lives you will grant us the gift of patience and trust in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all your holy ones who faithfully prepared the way of the Lord. Open our eyes to the new heavens and new earth made known in your advent among us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in 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 God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen Text and nusic © 1982 OIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Second Sunday of Advent. 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

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 form on line at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Kathy Graves in memory of her husband, Bill; and by Shelia & Tim Kelly in honor of Nathan's birthday.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 30, 2014:

Attendance: 146

Budget Report	November 30, 2014
Current Offering Received 11/30/14	\$ 2,812.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, YTD	\$195,478.81
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	(\$ 4,289.52)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 19,022.24)
•	

ASSISTING MINISTERS: **NURSERY:** (9:30 – 11:45 am)

Need Volunteers LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Julia Gunter

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: **ACOLYTES:** Becca Gatlin, Alec Via Trudy Whitener + Helper

GREETERS: The Naults **CRUCIFERS:** Madison Carr, Noah Rogers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2) TELLERS: Janet Achor, John Koehler

Louise Day, Co-Captain

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain **USHERS:** Need Volunteers

Donna Bean Nancy Powell **SOLOIST:** Raini Kimball Becky Richards

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, December 7 Wednesday, December 10 5:45 pm Meal 9:30 am Sunday School 6:30 pm **Vespers Worship** 10:10 am Church Choir Chamber Choir after 10:30 am The Service

3:15 pm All choirs meet at Sacred Heart

4:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Cardinal Gibbons Chapel

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Saturday, December 13

10:00 am Children's Christmas

Tuesday, December 9 **Play** Practice 12:00 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch 6:00 pm Choir Dinner at home Potluck lunch/Bible study of Shirley & Tom Causby

Dessert at Greg's house. 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

S.O.C.K.S. Angel Tree Thank you for your tremendous response in helping 50 children from our community! Your gifts have been delivered to SOCKS and will provide a special Christmas for children who otherwise may have not had anything to open on Christmas morning.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 7-13

December 8 Nathan Kelly December 10 Melissa Lingerfelt

Vivian Lane

Brian Wallace

December 9 Bob Koehler

Caitlan Reese

Marguerite Shive Denise Wiegand

December 11 Beth Brittain

Monique Estelle

December 12 Janet Achor





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin	Zac Hullander	Mabel Ratchford
Daniel Dowd	Bill & Pauline Joye	Mark Reese
Monique Estelle	Chase Lineberger	Beverly Reynolds
Ferrie Hedrick	Virginia Neagle	George Roberson
Dot Holland	Carol Posey	Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange	Dennis Jordan	Jean Peters
Paige Beaver	Betty Kannapel	Taylor Propst & Family
Jenny Beer	Steven Keating	David Prouty
Father Frank Cancro	Marshall Kinley	Joe Reynolds
Tina Capwell	Lance Kirkland	Anna Rudder
J. Don Devine	Terry Mahaffey	Megan Sigler
Poss Garrett	Steve Mathis	E. Taylor & Family
Ronnie Garrison	Kenadee Nelson	Gloria Ward
Lewis Gilbert Family	Mark Outlaw	Pastor Gary Weant
Brian Hedrick	Alicia Overton	Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

THE FIGURES ADDED TO OUR CRECHE this morning are Mary & Joseph. We are reminded that Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus declared that a Census must be taken. Thus, Mary and Joseph ended up in a stall because there was no room for them in the inn.

THE BLUE CANDLE in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.

The **2015 Flower Chart** is Now Available in the Narthex.

Please print your name at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 or both). If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines. Cost of both vases = \$45: One vase = \$22.50.



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES:

December 7: 10:30 am Worship

December 14: 10:30 am *Hanging of the Green* Service **December 21:** 10:30 am *Children's Christmas Program*

With **Holy Communion**

December 24: 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

10:45 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 28: 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols

Sunday School Attendance November 23, 2014



	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	3
Pre-K	7	1
God's Eden	7	1
Youth	1	1
Seekers		10
Adult Bible Class		14
Totals	: 18	34



presented by the music ministries of:

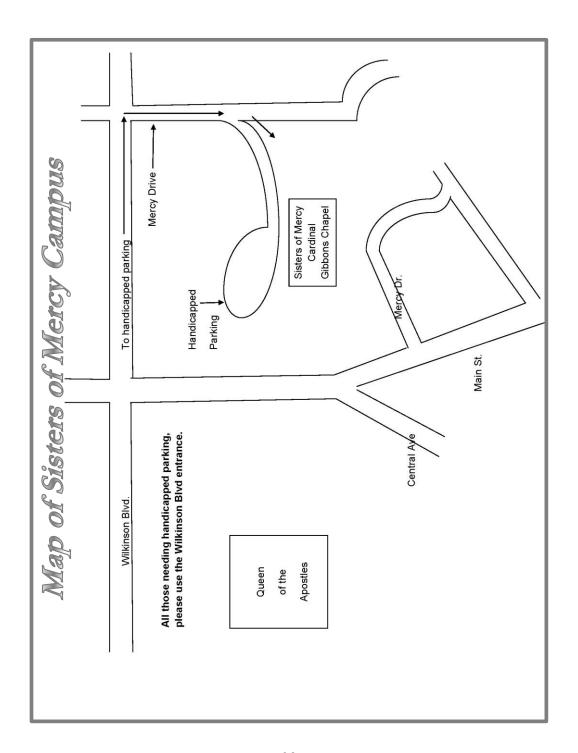
Queen of the Apostles & Holy Comforter Lutheran Church Sunday - December 7, 2014 - 4:00pm

LOCATION:

Sisters of Mercy Cardinal Gibbons Chapel 101 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012 (Map available on reverse side)

RECEPTION:

A reception will follow in the MAK Family Life Center at Queen of the Apostles 503 North Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012









Lectors, Greeters, Eucharist Presenters and Ushers Are needed for 2015.

If you are willing to serve in any of these capacities,
PLEASE sign your name on the corresponding sign-up sheet at the date you
would like to serve.

Sign-up sheets on individual clipboards are available in the narthex.



We also need Communion Assistants for 2015.

There is a separate sign-up sheet consisting of 3 Teams of 4 persons to serve four alternating months during the year.

If you are willing to help with communion, please sign your name to the team list you wish to serve on.



Poinsellia Order Form

YOUR NAME		
TELEPHONE NUMBER		
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED		
IN HONOR OF:		
IN MEMORY OF:		
TO THE GLORY OF GOD:		
PAID CHECK PAID CASH		

(Remember to add <u>\$15.00 for each poinsettia</u> ordered.)

Payment must be attached to order form.

All orders **due** to Dianne in the office **today**, **December 7**th. You may give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

Adopt A Foster Child for Christmas

The gifts for the foster children under the care of Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) are due by Friday, December 12 to:

Holy Communion Lutheran Church 103 West Church Street Dallas, NC 28034

704-922-5375

(The upside-down ship looking building...

Thank you to those who chose to provide Christmas for children who are having to live in foster care!

(If you cannot get your gifts to Holy Communion in Dallas, PLEASE bring to *Holy Comforter* by Wednesday, *December 10, 3:00 pm*, and Dianne will deliver to Holy Communion on her way home from work.)

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager