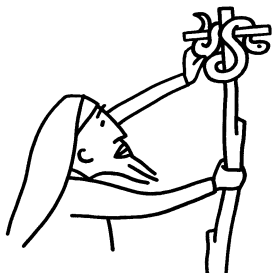


Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall*

JS Bach

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 writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C Amen.

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways
that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our
hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you
know, forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Just As I Am*

All Stand & Sing

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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

Pastor

Congregation

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. 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. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the twenty-first chapter of Numbers.

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from the second chapter of Ephesians.

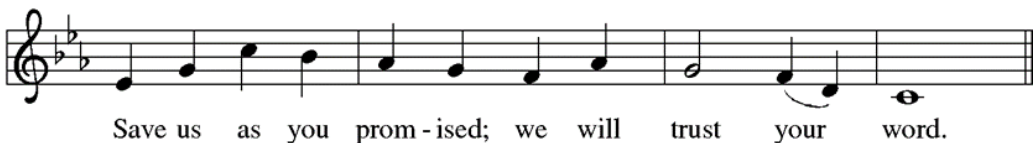
While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Deacon Beka

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

All Stand and Sing



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the ways hatred and oppression manifest in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Behold, How Good*

Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Praise and Thanks and Adoration*

All Stand & Sing



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

OFFERING PRAYER

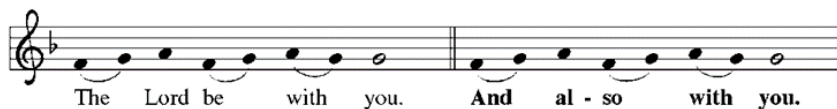
A Let us pray.

C Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation



Pastor



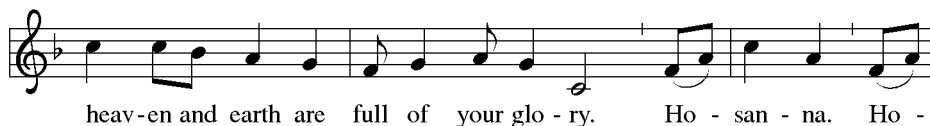
Congregation

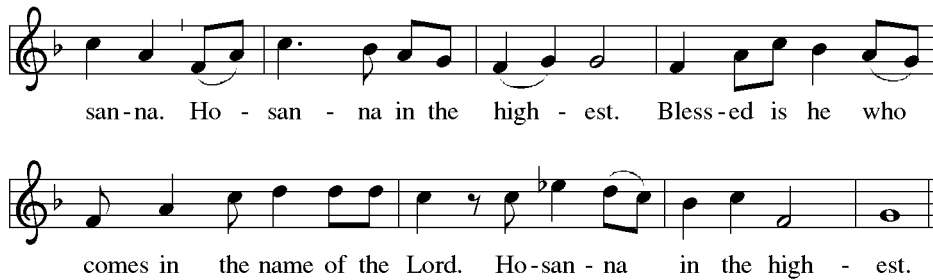


PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

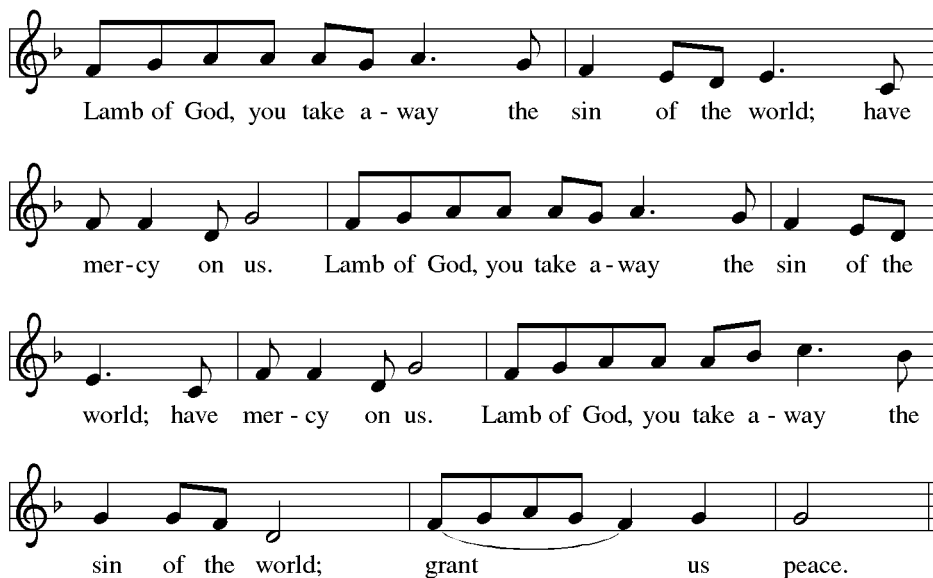
LORD'S PRAYER

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 Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION

During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *For By Grace You Have Been Saved* All Sing



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
 own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
 self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

All Stand & Sing



1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

SENDING

P Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *O, That I Had A Thousand Voices*

Busarow

**Altar Flowers are given by Jerri and Mike Wesson in honor of their son, Dan Robinson's, 44th birthday.*

**Thanks to our Soloist, Diann Halvorson,
And our Lector, Anne Reese*

Give your offering online!



If you'd like to give an offering but don't carry money with you, simply scan the QR code above and you'll be able to give through an online form.

This Weeks Schedule:

Sunday, March 10th

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:10 am - Church Choir

10:30 am - Worship

12:00 pm - Church Council Meeting

4:00 pm - Kid's Club

5:00 pm - HCY

5:00 pm - Adult Handbells

6:00 pm - Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 12th

7:00 pm - Nar Anon Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th

5:30 pm - Youth Handbells

6:00 pm - Congregation Lenten Dinner

6:45 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

7:15 pm - Chamber Choir

Join us for our Lenten "Holden Evening Prayer" Dinner and Worship on March 13, for our last Evening Prayer Service. Dinner is at 6 pm, and worship at 6:45. It is a time for peace, worship, and fellowship amidst the busyness of life.



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Lenoir-Rhyne Choir at Holy Comforter!

On Thursday, March 21st, at 7:00 pm, the Lenoir-Rhyne Choir will perform at Holy Comforter. We are excited to host this wonderful event and opportunity to have such exquisite music in our sanctuary. This concert is open to the community, so tell and bring your friends!

Meet the Summer Mission Trip Travelers!

Holy Comforter is excited to send all of our active youth group members and adults to the Dwelling and the Youth Gathering this summer! June 12th-16th, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem and The Dwelling. July 16th-20th is our second trip to New Orleans where we are excited to experience the Youth Gathering. We are spotlighting each traveler over the upcoming months.



My name is Leah Koehler, I am in 10th grade at South Point High School. I play tennis and have gone to youth group for years. I have been to the Dwelling twice before and I really enjoy going! I've heard different stories about homelessness. Last summer, I learned that women experiencing homelessness have a much harder time finding a place to stay because not many shelters allow women or kids. I can't wait to go back and see the friends I've made at the Dwelling and to Worship with them on a Sunday. This will be my first time going to the Youth Gathering and I am very excited to experience it and learn about New Orleans.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483
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