

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 10, 2021

## The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



### GATHERING

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Austrian Hymn Tune*. . . . . Haydn

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God our comforter,

**C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *O God Beyond All Praising. . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -  
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and  
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and  
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and  
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the  
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it  
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of  
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate  
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -  
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y  
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic  
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and  
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:  
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:  
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:  
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:  
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen  
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## 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,

*Pastor*

*Congregation*

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

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

# THIS IS THE FEAST ..... *All Sing*

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST READING

**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

A reading from the fifth chapter of Amos.

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## Hebrews 4:12-16

A reading from fourth chapter of Hebrews.

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who



another, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”  
<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah

*Silence is kept for Reflection.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Gather Us In ..... All Stand & Sing*



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.





Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Neither Death, Nor Life. . . . . Church Choir*  
(The congregation joins in for the refrain)

*Refrain – All*

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor  
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor  
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us  
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to  
nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

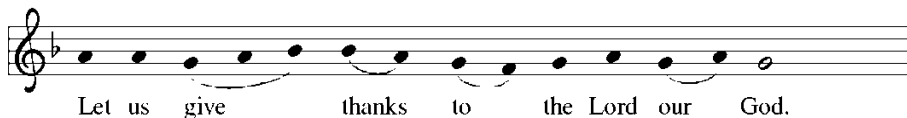
## DIALOGUE

*Pastor*

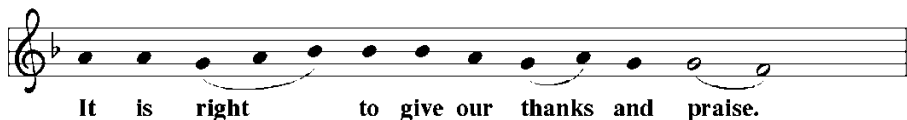
*Congregation*



*Pastor*



*Cong.*



## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. .... All Sing



## 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 who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.  
C Thanks be to God.



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

Music notation for the hymn "Lamb of God". The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the staff.

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.

**POSTLUDE:** *Recessional in C major* .....Dixon

## COMMUNION

*During Communion we will be dismissed by rows, starting in the front. You will receive the elements from the table in the narthex, and take them to the parking lot to eat. We will finish the worship liturgy and be dismissed there. You may stand outside your car or be seated inside. You should be able to hear the worship leader through your radio on 89.5 fm.*

**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** Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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# Holy Doodles



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**Church Office Hours: - Monday – Thursday 8:30am-2:00pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor- email: [Micahkearney@gmail.com](mailto:Micahkearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist/Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship