

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 13th, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Jesus, We Will Sing*

VBS Children

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 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,

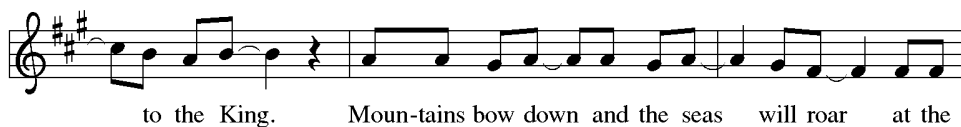
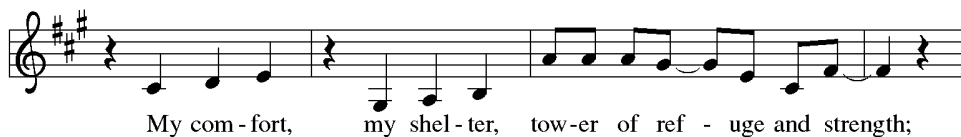
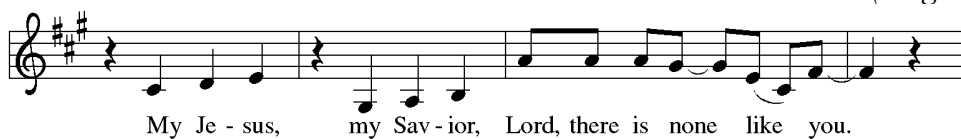
C We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

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: *Shout to the Lord*

All Stand & Sing
(Sing 2x's)



GREETING

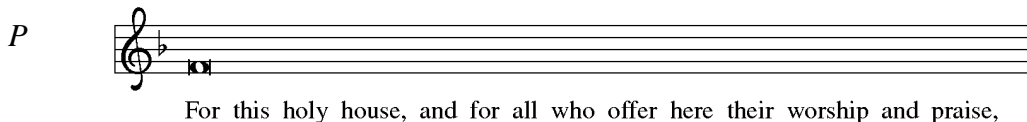
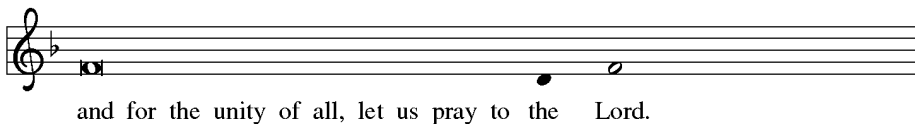
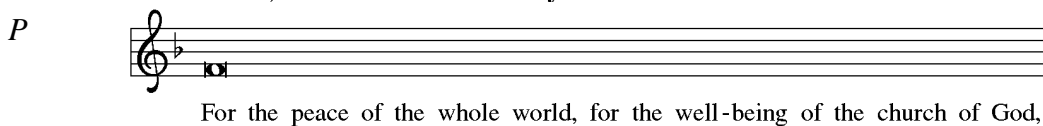
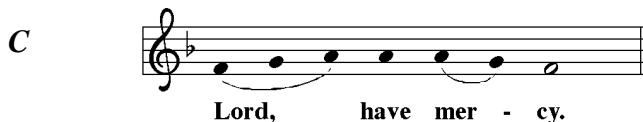
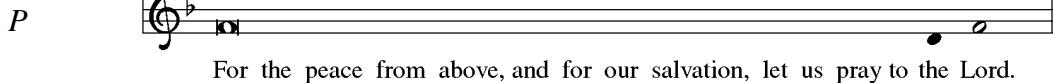
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

Congregation



Pastor

Congregation

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

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is for the Pastor and the bottom staff is for the Congregation. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Pastor's part consists of a single measure followed by a double bar line and then a phrase. The Congregation's part also consists of a single measure followed by a double bar line and then a phrase. The lyrics are written below the notes.

THIS IS THE FEAST

All Sing Refrain

Soprano/Alto - Odd Verses, Tenor/ Bass - Even Verses

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,

The image shows six staves of musical notation for the song 'THIS IS THE FEAST'. The first three staves are for the Refrain, and the last three staves are for the main body of the song. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The second staff is labeled '1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb'. The third staff is labeled 'who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.'. The fourth staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The fifth staff is labeled '2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and'. The sixth staff is labeled 'strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.'. The seventh staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The eighth staff is labeled '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.
Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid.
 Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and
 preserve us in the faith of 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

1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from the nineteenth chapter of 1 Kings.

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:5-15

A reading from the tenth chapter of Romans.

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

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

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

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

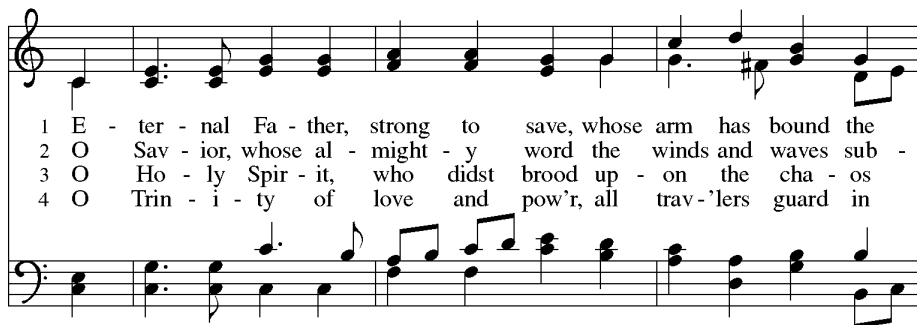
SERMON

Pastor Micah

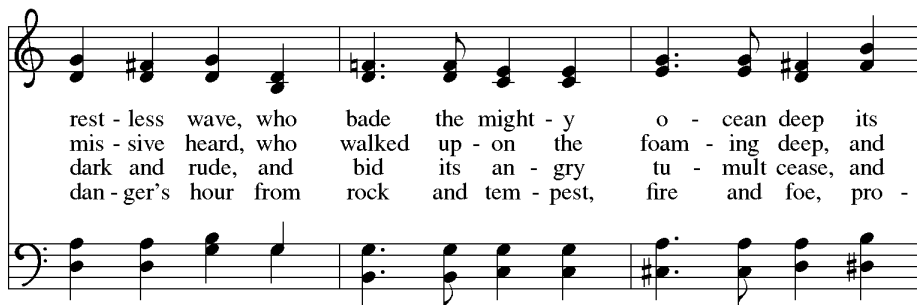
Silence is Kept for Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

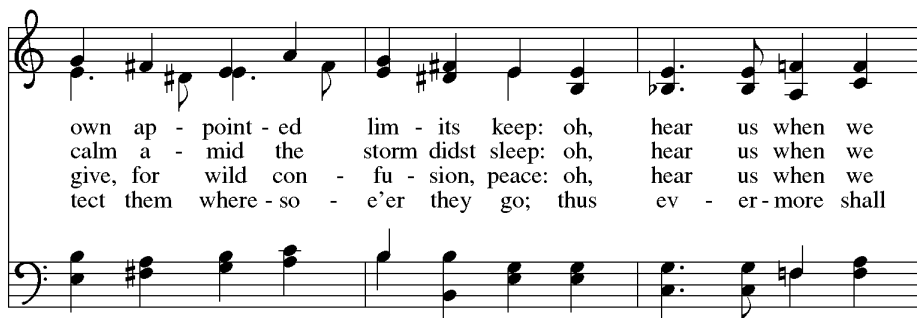
All Stand & Sing




1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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.

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service as examples of following your call. 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: *When the Storms of Life Are Raging*

Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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 two systems of music. The first system covers the lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second system covers 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your'. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the corresponding vocal staves.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,


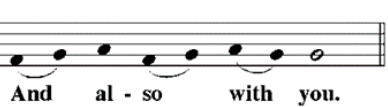


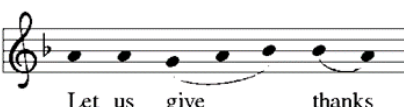

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.

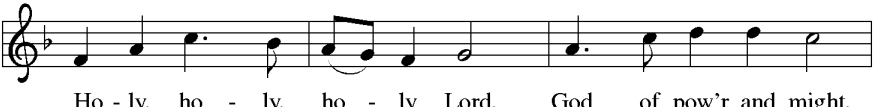
DIALOGUE

	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
		
		
<i>P</i>		
<i>C</i>		

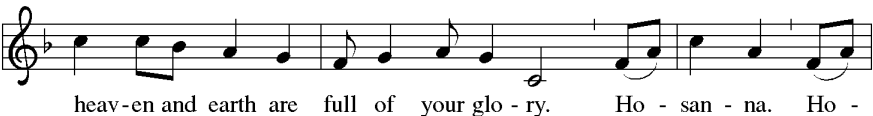
PREFACE

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


HOLY, HOLY, HOLY




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed 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.

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: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

All Sing



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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 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: *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

All Stand & Sing



- 1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
- 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

SENDING

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Jubilation*

Ashdown

*Special thank you to our Lector, Jodi Nerret.

* The altar flowers were given by Shelia Kelly in honor of Grayson Kelly's birthday.

This weeks schedule:

Sunday, August 13th

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

12:00 pm – Church Council Meeting

4:00 pm -Small Group 1

Monday, August 14th

6:00 pm – Youth Gathering Interest Meeting

Tuesday, August 15th

7:00 pm – Christian Education

7:00 pm – Small Group 2

Thursday, August 17th

7:00 pm – Outreach Meeting

Sunday, August 20th

6:00 pm – Church Choir Reunion

PRELUDE: *Jesus, We Will Sing*

All Sing

Jesus, we will sing of your love.
Jesus, we will sing of your love.
Love, love, love;
Love, love, love;
We will sing of your love.

Jesus, we will sing of your peace.
Jesus, we will sing of your peace.
Peace, peace peace;
Peace, peace peace;
We will sing of your peace.

Jesus, we will sing of your joy.
Jesus, we will sing of your joy.
Joy, joy joy;
Joy, joy joy;
We will sing of your joy.



"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

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster