

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, June 13, 2021

The Third Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING: *Trumpet Voluntary II* Rowan

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Variation on a theme of Corelli* Miller

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *How Firm a Foundation. All Stand & Sing*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

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.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Ezekiel

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

A reading from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION. *All Stand & Sing*

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

Mark 4:26-34

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

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

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶ [Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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: *Morning Has Broken* All Stand & Sing

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness and those whose names we lift to you now. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you.
We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your
mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

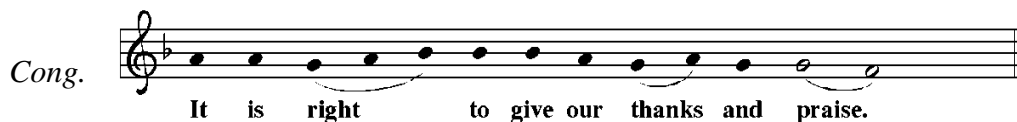
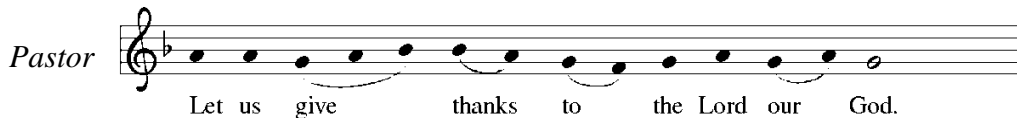
P Let us pray,

C **Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we
are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of
Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

Pastor

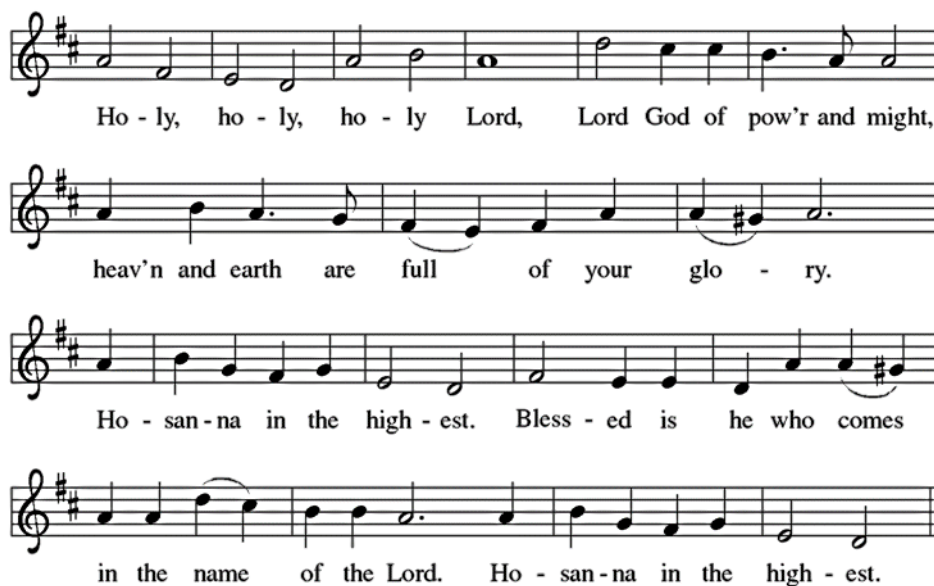
Congregation



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...... *All Sing*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

C Thanks be to God.



LAMB OF GOD.....All Sing

Musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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: Psalm 20Marcello

COMMUNION

During Communion we will be dismissed by rows, starting in the front. You will receive the elements from the table by the door, and take them to your car 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.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

- A special thanks to the musical leadership of our cantor, Jo Anne de la Vega.

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Holy Doodles



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Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

Dona Martell, Office Manager