

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 13th, 2022

Second Sunday in Lent



WELCOME/GATHERING:

PRELUDE:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Around You, O Lord Jesus* All Stand & Sing



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite

Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569

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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.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.**

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.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of Genesis.

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying

darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17--4:1

A reading from the third & forth chapter of Philippians.

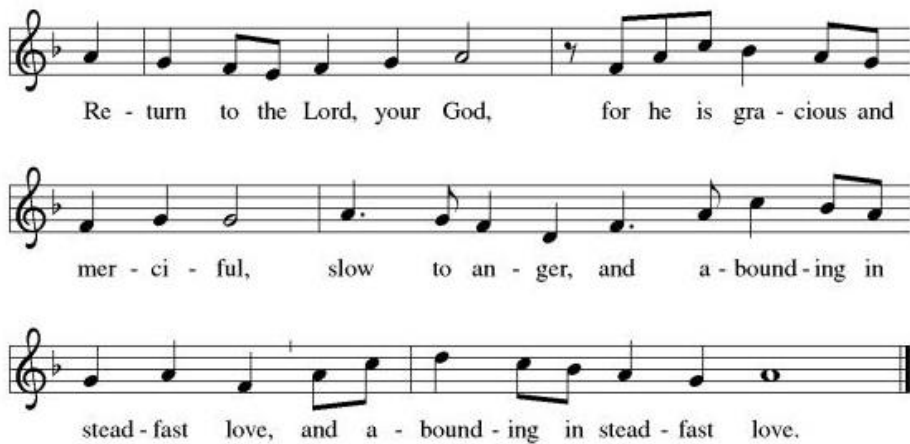
Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Deacon Beka
Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Thy Holy Wings* *All Stand & Sing*



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all
who are in need.

A brief silence.

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

ANTHEM: *The Falconer* Church Choir

Rise, my song, and stretch your wings,
delight and need to trace.
Rise for those the gospel brings
to seek a singing place.
This will be our singing day,
word and tune will both be true.
Song, soar up, but not away
the falc'ner waits for you.

Rise, my song, and have no fear
of soaring wide and high.
Christ the falconer is near,
wherever you may fly.
See the human world below,
showing scars and beauty too.
In a closing circle go,
the falc'ner waits for you.

Soar, my song, with wings wide fanned,
 delight and need to trace.
 Come to Christ's uplifted hand,
 and find a resting place.
 One day soaring song shall see
 everything made whole and new.
 Day of gladness, come to be!
 the falc'ner waits for you.

Text: Richard Leach, 1994.
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation



Pastor



Congregation



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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

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 Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

During communion the congregation will be invited forward by rows, starting in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You will then return to your seat where you may briefly remove your mask to eat and drink, and then quickly replace it. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.

LAMB OF GOD

Musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are: '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.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a curved line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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.

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 Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

BLESSING

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Be Thou My Vision* Stand & Sing



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

SENDING

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C Thanks be to God.

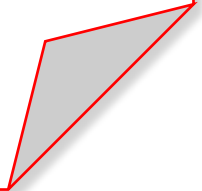
POSTLUDE: *Christ, The Life Of All The Living* Bach

****Prelude & Anthem Organist:** Suzanna Fairbairn

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Holy Doodles



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org
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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Sandra Askey, Office Manager