

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Although I Speak With Angels Tongue*

Harbach

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, redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

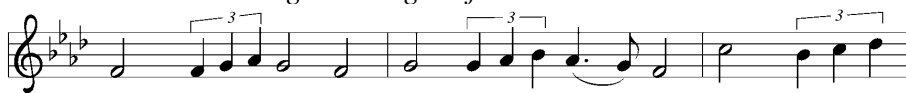
C we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We truly repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

P Rejoice and be glad! God hears the prayers of all who cry out, and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit..

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*

All Stand & Sing



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



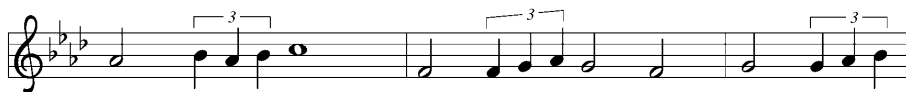
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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.

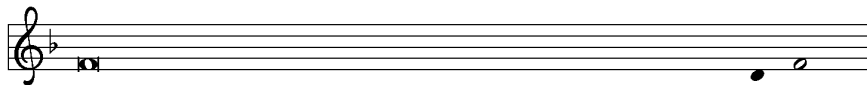
KYRIE

Leader

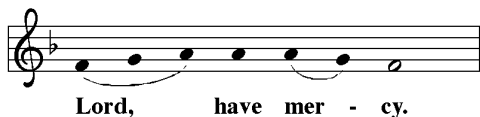
Congregation



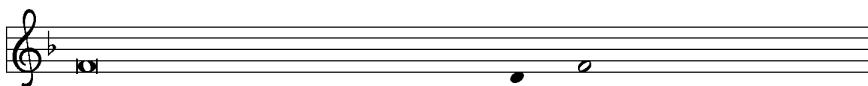
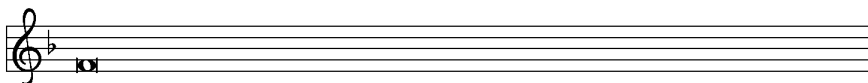
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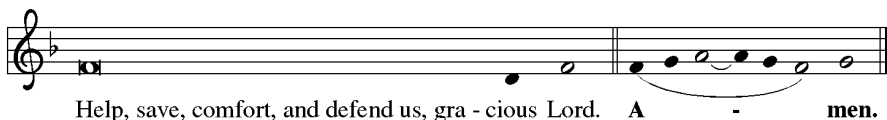
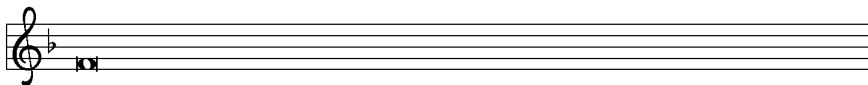
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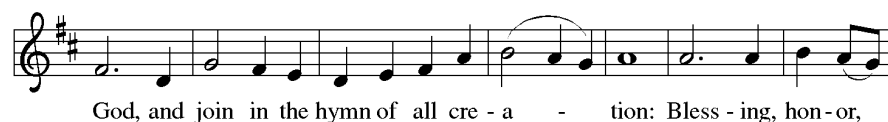
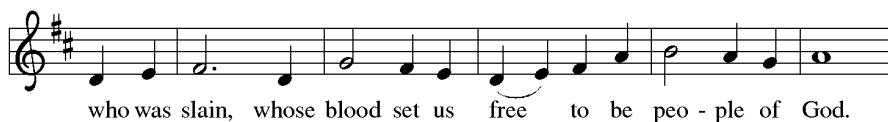
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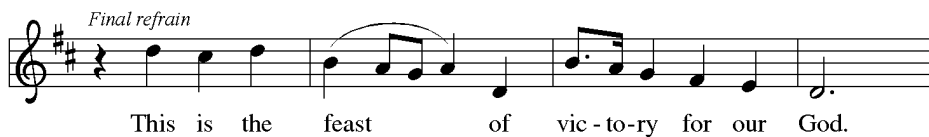
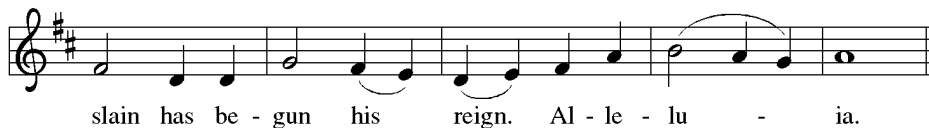


THIS IS THE FEAST

All Sing Refrain

Sopranos/Altos sing odd verses, Tenor/Basses sing even





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through 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

Malachi 4:1-2

A reading from the fourth chapter of Malachi.

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from the third chapter of Second Thessalonians.

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

L The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom

that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Deacon Beka

Silence is Kept for Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

All Stand & Sing

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Uniting God, unite this assembly in its shared mission and ministry for the sake of the gospel. Highlight ways we can better work together and give us patience to work through disagreement. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Consoling God, abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those 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: *Christus Paradox*

Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As Saints of Old*

All Stand & Sing



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Leader

Congregation



L



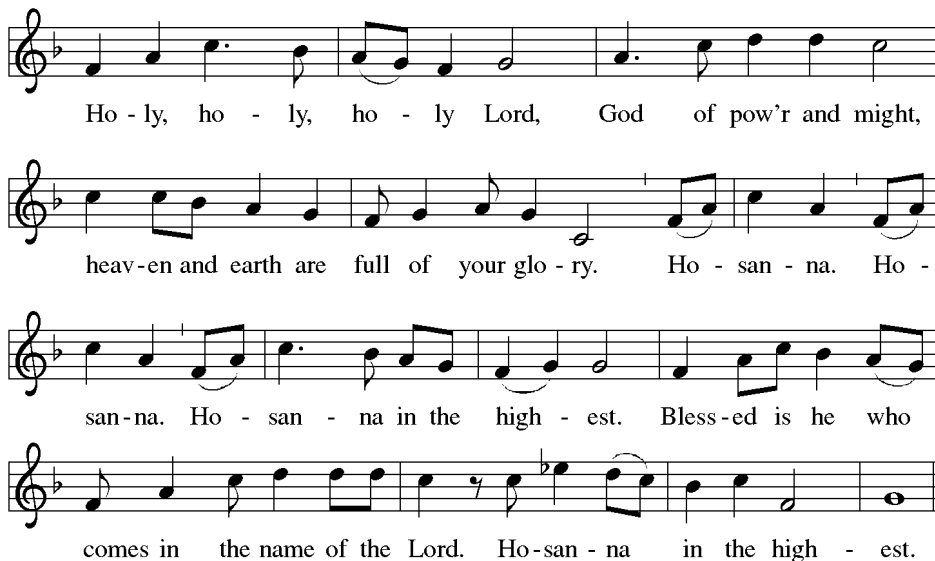
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PREFACE

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 Christ invites you to this table. Gather here with all the saints.

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

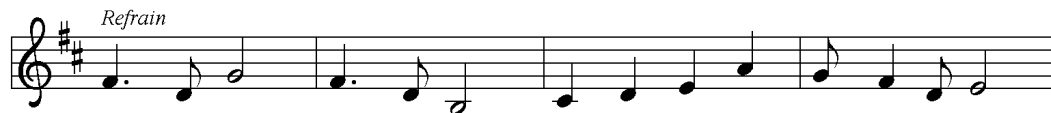
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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: *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

All Sing



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34

Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young

Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

- 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 give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *How Firm A Foundation*

All Stand & Sing

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano line with chords. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

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."

SENDING

P Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Psalm 19

Marcello

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*Special thank you to our Lector, Julia Gunter.

** Our altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of John and Myra Yount
by the Howard family and by James and Mary Godwin.

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday, November 13th

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:10 am - Church Choir in balcony
- 10:30 am - Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm - Council Meeting
- 4:00 pm - Kids Club
 - Small Group 1
- 5:00 pm - Handbell Practice
 - HCY
- 6:00 pm - Choir Practice
- 6:30 pm - Dwelling Interest Meeting

Tuesday, November 15th

- 7:00 pm - Nar-Anon
 - Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, November 16th

- 4:00 pm - Faith Formation Video posted
- 5:30 pm - Unfailing Light Handbells
- 6:45 pm - Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm - Chamber Choir

Thursday, November 17th

- 7:00 pm - Outreach Meeting



"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

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holycomforter@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org
Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster