

# *Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter*

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 25, 2022

## *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



### **WELCOME/GATHERING**

**PRELUDE:** *On Eagles Wings*

Joncas

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C Amen.**

L Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

L Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✠ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *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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## GREETING

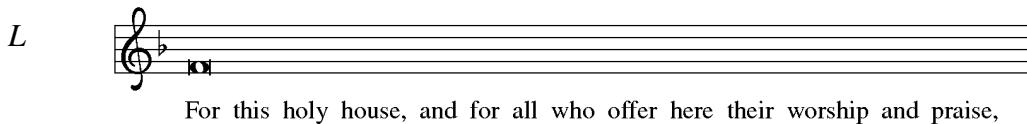
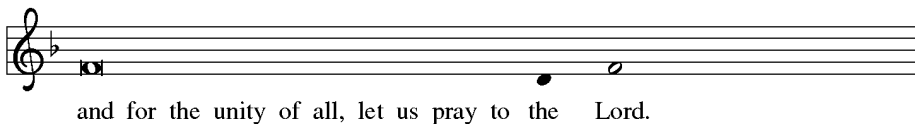
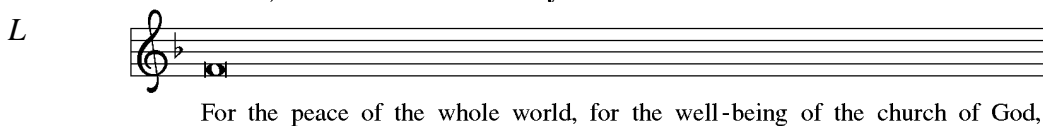
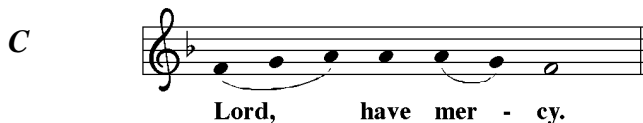
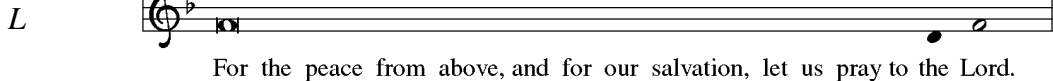
**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

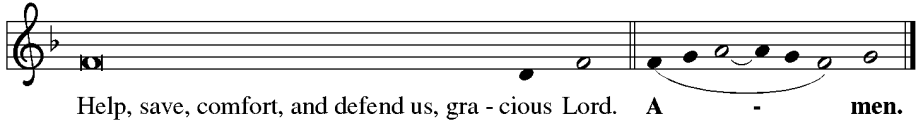
*Leader*

*Congregation*



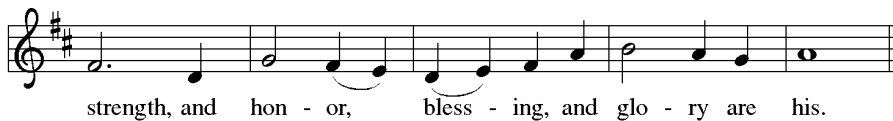
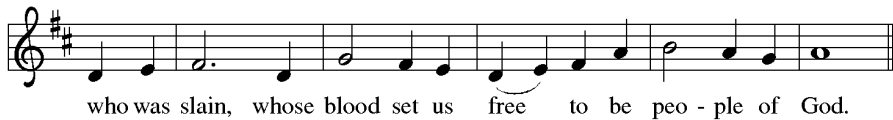
*Leader*

*Congregation*



## 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. 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**

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L** Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, 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**

**Amos 6:1, 4-7**

A reading from the sixth chapter of Amos.

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

<sup>1a</sup>Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,  
<sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
and lounge on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock,  
and calves from the stall;  
<sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
and like David improvise on instruments of music;  
<sup>6</sup>who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!  
<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Timothy 6:6-19

A reading from the sixth chapter of first Timothy.

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

<sup>6</sup>Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

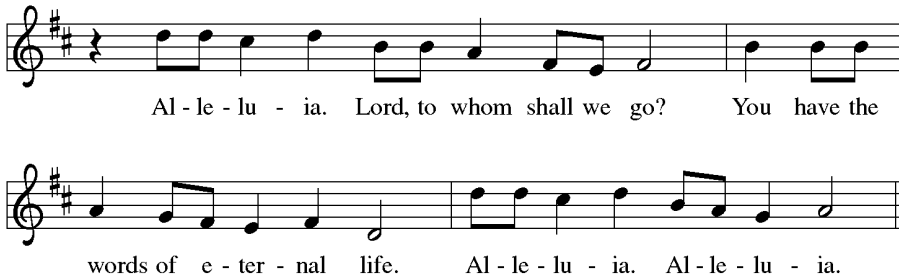
<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Luke 16:19-31**

**L** The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

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

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—<sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

**L** The gospel of the Lord.

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



*Silence is Kept for Reflection*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ, Be Our Light*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Day of Resurrection*

Chamber Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *God Welcomes All*

*All Stand & Sing  
(Repeat 3 times)*

The musical score is written for a Chamber Choir in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line. The music is simple and homophonic, with the vocal line often carrying the melody and the bass line providing harmonic support.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transe. and arr. John L. Bell.

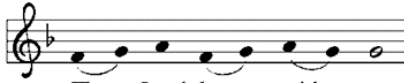




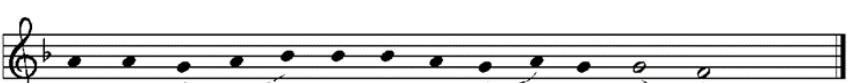
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## OFFERING PRAYER

L Let us pray.

C Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.


## DIALOGUE

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
 The Lord be with you.	 And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts.	 We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.	

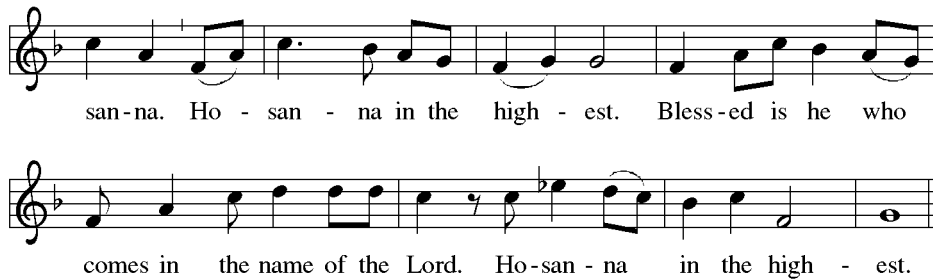
## PREFACE

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 -



## 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. Come, taste and see.

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: *Come Now, You Blessed*

*All Sing*



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,

said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,

"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,  
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
 What have we done that you call us your own?  
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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Music © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

**P** The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**L** Let us pray.

**C** God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

L God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: *The God of Abraham Praise*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand  
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace  
 4 Your prom - ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.

"I Am the One I Am"— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 And you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.  
 Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797



## SENDING

L Go in peace, with Christ beside you

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Recessional in C*

Dixon

\*Special thank you to our Lector, Marcus Cox

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**"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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