Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 26, 2019

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

- P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source. We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *God of Grace and God of Glory* All Stand & Sing

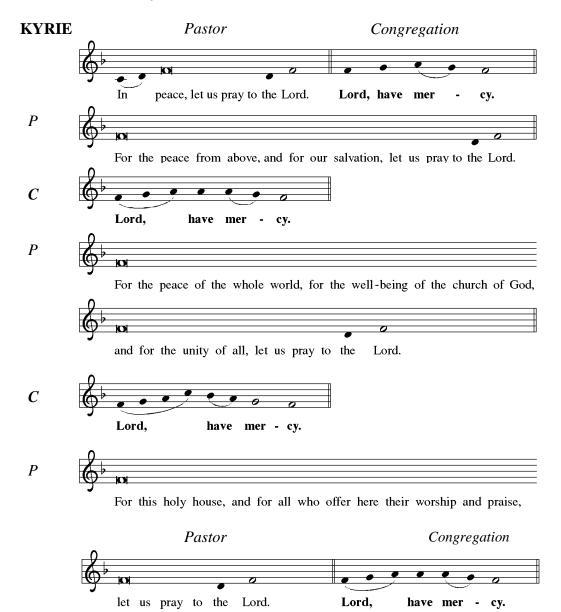


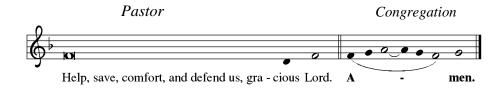
Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.









SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Amen.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation is seated and invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nursery.

FIRST READING Acts 16:9–15

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of Acts.

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If

you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5

A reading from the twenty-first and twenty-second chapters of Revelation.

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 14:23-29

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

life.

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

words of e - ter - nal

C Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

All Stand & Sing Come down, O Love di vine; of seek thou this soul mine Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn 3 Let ho - ly char - i ty mine out - ward ves - ture be, with which the 4 And the yearn - ing soul long, strong, will and vis - it it with thine own ar dor glow ing; to dust and ash - es in its heat con sum ing; low - li - ness come mine in - ner cloth and be ingshall out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell ing; O Com-fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap pear and let thy glo -true low - li - ness rious light shine ev - er on my sight, of which takes the hum heart, bler part, soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame stow be ing.

> Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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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 rese again:

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

Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Prevail upon us with your Spirit. Convince us daily that you have called us to proclaim the good news of your grace. Let all who love you proclaim your word of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Feed us with the bounty of your creation. Bless the earth with enough rain and sunshine for the flourishing of orchards, gardens, and fields. Give us thankful hearts as we share the fruit of the land with all who hunger. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The leaves of your tree of life are for the healing of the nations. Bring an end to civil war, genocide, terrorism, and violence. Overcome divisions of race, politics, and religion. Mend relationships across borders and across oceans. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Our hearts are troubled and afraid. Visit us again with your peace. Comfort those facing uncertain futures: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those in difficult relationships, those with chronic pain, those waiting for news about their health, and those who are sick (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all who have died in service to nation. Inspire us to walk in your light and to live for the sake of freedom and justice for your children. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Open the gates of salvation to all who are written in your book of life. Lead us into the city that needs no light of sun or moon, where you will be our light forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

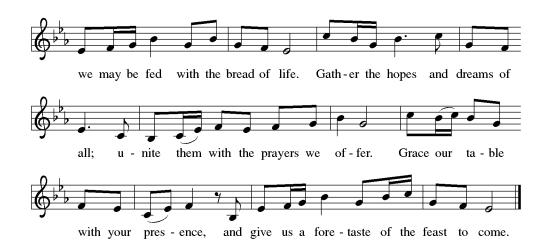
- The peace of Christ be with you always. P
- \mathbf{C} And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards* All Stand & Sing Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



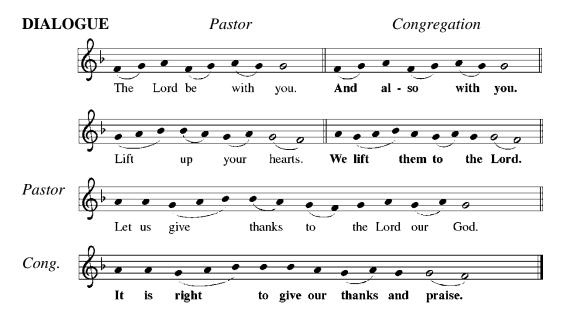
bless-ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown.



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

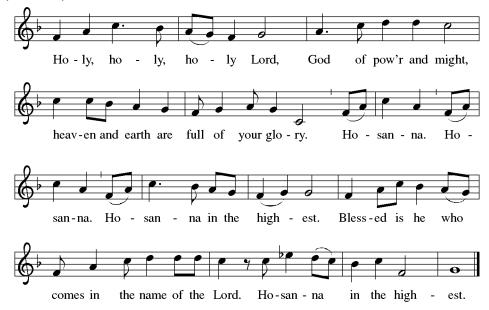
C Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Our Father, who art in heaven,

LORD'S PRAYER

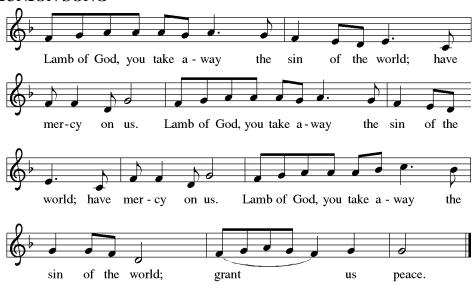
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters . . All Sing



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho ly wis dom! Un im ag ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv-ing bread. To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs. By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re-cre - ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

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 Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Holy God, We Praise Your Name All Stand & Sing Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we Hark! The glad tial hymn an - gel choirs ce les a -3 Lo, the tol ic train join your cred ap os sa Ho - ly Fa Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, ther, ho 1y be - fore you. are rais - ing; All bow on earth your scep - ter claim, bove cher - u and are bim ser phim, a glad name hal - low; proph - ets swell the re - frain, to though in three we name you, es sence on ly one; all in heav'n a bove a - dore you. In - fi nite your ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a dor do - main, ev er last ing your reign. vast is

Taxt: course unknown: tr. Clarance A. Walworth, 1820, 1900

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SENDING

- P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **Sixth Sunday of Easter.** We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at www.holyc.org.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 19, 2019:

Attendance: 125 **Budget Report** May 19, 2019 Year-to-Date \$102,958.46 Offering 5,440.00 Expenses 5,774.35 \$117,635.44 Offering less Expenses 334.35` (\$ 14,676.98) Expected (Budgeted) Expenses \$115,761.89 Offering less Budgeted Expenses (\$ 12,803.43)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 5/19/19

\$225,000 Goal: Received to Date: 150,620 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 \$ 39,380 Remaining Needed:

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye **GREETER:** Volunteer

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER: TELLERS: Amanda & Nathen Kelly

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Olivia Sarrazin & Noah Rawlins

Rebecca Yount **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain **NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Carmen De Nicholas Volunteer Deb Williams

USHERS: Volunteers

GUEST ORGANIST:

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers Vonne Hall

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 26 - June1

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers

Today, May 26 Matthew Hogge May 29 Angie Morton May 30 Jonathan Baker Amelia Kline

May 31 John Zander May 28 Richard Fox

Angie Koehler

Dawn Mitchell

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, May 26 Thursday, May 30: 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 7:00 pm Tai Chi session

10:10 am Church Choir in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Isle of Palms Retreat returns

Tuesday, May 28:

6:00 pm Worship & Music meets

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon



Six Ways to Build Better Brainpower Recent studies have shown that Alzheimer's and other dementia-related disorders can be prevented or at least 'held off' to a later date by keeping our minds active! Here are some mind-stimulating tips to include in your daily "exercise" regimes: Learn something new every day. Studies show that learning keeps people mentally sharp. Play mind-stretching games such as Scrabble, chess, and cards. Do the crossword puzzle in the daily newspaper. Attend

lectures, plays, exhibits, and watch educational television. Read books and magazine articles about subjects of interest. Use memory aids, such as appointment calendars, "to do" lists, and Post-it notes.

Also, concentrate on what people say, repeat what you want to remember out loud, and associate an action with an object (like leaving your tote bag near the door so you remember to take it with you when you leave). Our brains are important to us, and irreplaceable, so take good care of them and provide them with "exercise" just as you do your bodies!

AND FOR YOUR BODY, SIGN UP NOW FOR THE WALK WITH GOD INCENTIVE PROGRAM SIGN UP IN THE EDUCATION WING ACROSS FROM THE COFFEE!





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden Zac Hullander
Sue Lahr
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor

Beverly Reynolds
Pat Roberson & Family
Jerri & Mike Wesson
Trudy Whitener &
Family

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Ron de la Vega Nancy Dickson Qemal Fazlin

(Halide's husband)

Carol Fox Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett

Meredith Hovis
Adam Kincaid
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Ruth Lyerly
Cookie Lynn
Jane Marino
Clarence McLain

Zak Merzouki
Anne Murdy
Linda Nichols
Sara Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates
Doris Wade

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.



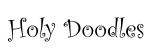
In Search Of Volunteers

Vacation Bible School

July 28-31 Dinner offered at 5:45pm Program 6:15 - 8:00 pm Pre-K through Grade 5









GRADUATES

We would like to honor those students who will graduate this May and June.

List the name, degree attained and any plans to attend an institute of higher learning.

Please send your information to Dianne in the church office by Tuesday, May 28 so it can be included in the June newsletter.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MKearney@holyc.org Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse