Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 28, 2017

The Seventh Sunday of Easter



The Rev. John Merck Guest Pastor Vonne Hall Organist

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P In the name of the Father, and of the ± Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

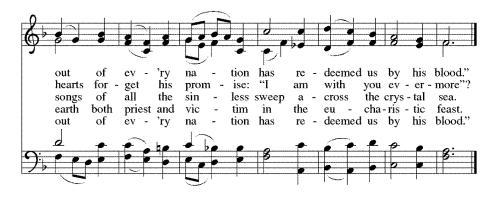
Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ± Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds All Stand and Sing



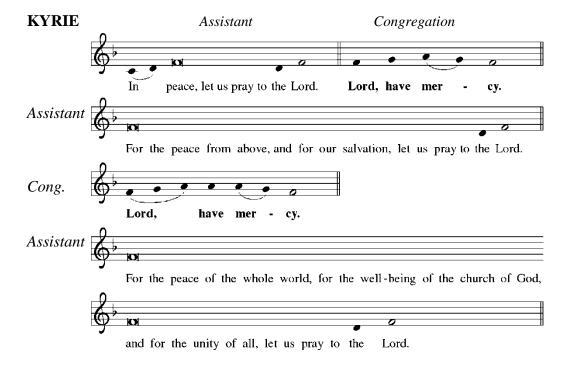


Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

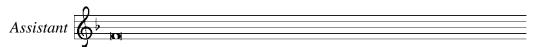
GREETING

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.

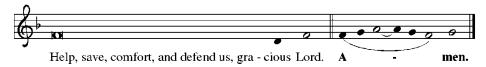




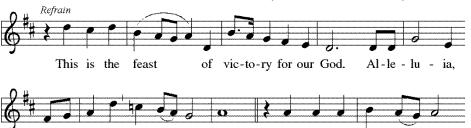


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,





CANTICLE OF PRAISE Refrain All, Women odd verses, Men even verses





1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are 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 nurseries.

FIRST READING Acts 1:6–14

A reading from the first chapter of Acts.

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all

Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the fourth and fifth chapters of 1 Peter.

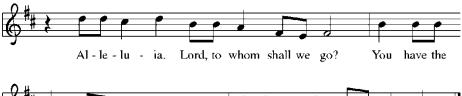
Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others, because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has

called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.





GOSPEL John 17:1-11

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

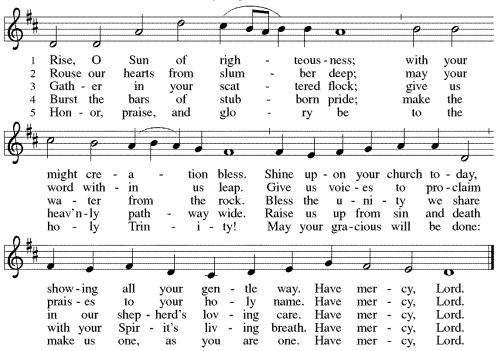
⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy

Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

SERMON Guest Pastor, The Rev. John Merck

HYMN OF THE DAY: Rise, O Sun of Righteousness All Stand & Sing



Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958 Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566 Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Keep us steadfast in your word. Shape us according to your will. Heal our divisions. Protect us from discord. Unite us in your love. Empower us for mission. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For forests and vineyards, marshes and springs. For grasslands and pastures, farmlands and orchards. Protect your creation from damage by earthquake, flood, wind, drought, fire, or hail. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. For those who govern and all who hold authority. For those who have been displaced by warfare, economic hardship, or disaster. Bring freedom, justice, and stability to areas of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who are anxious. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who are hungry or homeless. For those who grieve and all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Deepen our lives of prayer. Open us to the guiding of your Spirit. Fill us with compassion. Nourish us at your holy table. Strengthen us in service to our community. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving we remember those who have died, especially our loved ones and those who have given their lives in service. Inspire us by their example and bring us to your eternal home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One. Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards* All Stand & Sing

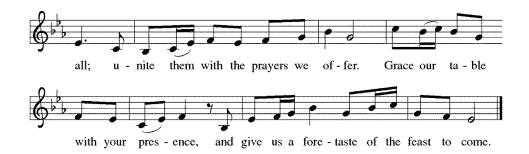


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of





we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of

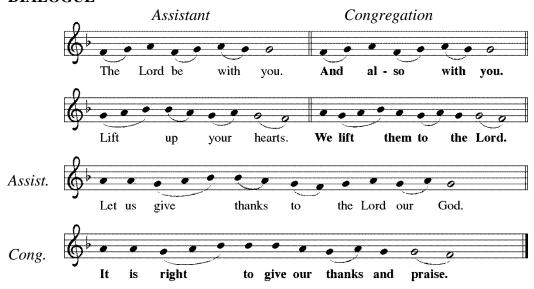


OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

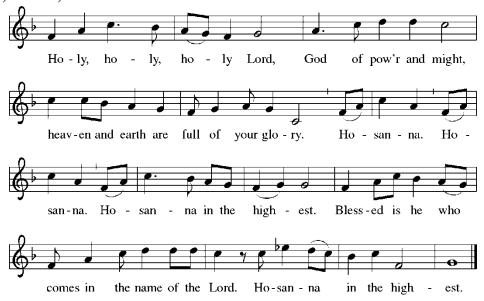
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

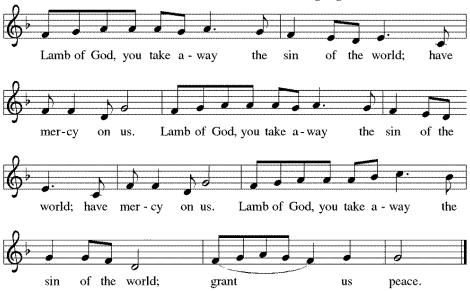
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!
- C Thanks be to God





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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C Life-giving God,

in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ± Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C** Amen.



SENDING SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns All Stand & Sing



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

DISMISSAL

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Seventh 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are located 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Kathy Graves in memory of her mother, Evelyn Ewing.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. *Carmen Buell, Worship & Music*

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 21, 2017:

Attendance: 120

May 21, 2017 Year-to-Date **Budget Report Current Offering Received** 2.530.00 \$ 106.217.75 Weekly Budget Expenses 5,656.42 \$ 113,497.83 Offering, Less Expenses (3,126.42)7,280.08) **Budgeted Expenses** \$ 114,998.44 Offering less Budgeted Expenses 8,780.69)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Becky Richards

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) **USHERS:** Volunteers Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen Amanda Kelly

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:
Volunteer

Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers

GUEST ORGANIST:
Vonne Hall

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers **GUEST PASTOR:**

The Reverend John Merck

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Infants: Staff; Toddlers: Volunteer

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 28-June 3

Today, May 28 Richard Fox May 29 Angie Morton
Angie Koehler May 30 Jonathan Baker
May 31 John Zander



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, May 28

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

4:00 pm *Chrismon* workshop at HolyC

Monday, May 29 OFFICE CLOSED



7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 31

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

June 2-3

NC Synod Assembly



Join us June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm, for our Annual Vacation Bible School! This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email Melissa Bocchino at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com. Registration forms for children in rising grades K through 5th are available in the narthex (inside front doors of entrance to sanctuary). We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!





Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape July 17-21.

Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at

Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**.

The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



TS PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden Dot Holland Zac Hullander Chase Lineberger Holly Peche

Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Father Frank Cancro
Midge Cunningham
Teresa Beale Davis
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox Scott Frisk Bill Hinkle Glenda Hinkle Brian Jackson & Family Leitner Family Jennifer Lineberger Anne Murdy Heather Plichta Karen Wayt Donnie Yavelak



OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer

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 located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org



Be included in Holy Comforter's 2017 Photo Directory!

Lifetouch (formerly Olan Mills) supplies professional photographers on-site to provide members with the highest quality family photos as well as providing the church with a top-notch Photo Directory. We strongly encourage EVERY FAMILY to participate in this opportunity! Here are a few reasons why:

- It's 100% FREE! Lifetouch only requires there be at least 15 families photographed to provide this free service.
- Each family receives a FREE 8x10, no purchase necessary!
- Each family receives a FREE Photo Directory, a professionally bound book of photos and contact information as well as a history lesson celebrating Holy Comforter's Centennial year!
- Easy online scheduling! Visit our website or Facebook for link.
- For every session scheduled, Holy C receives \$5! So not only is the session beneficial to your family, but it's a fundraising opportunity!
- We have coupons! \$10 off any photo package simply for providing your e-mail address!

We have **FOUR** dates to ensure everyone will be able to participate.

Monday, June 12 2 pm - 9 pm

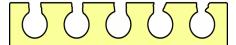
Tuesday, June 13 2 pm - 9 pm

Friday, June 23 2 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, June 24 10 am - 5 pm

Questions? Contact Katie Kessen at 815.762.5480 or ktkssn112@aol.com

BCO May Items of the Month...





Packaged cookies

Canned Pasta:

Ex. Spaghetti &

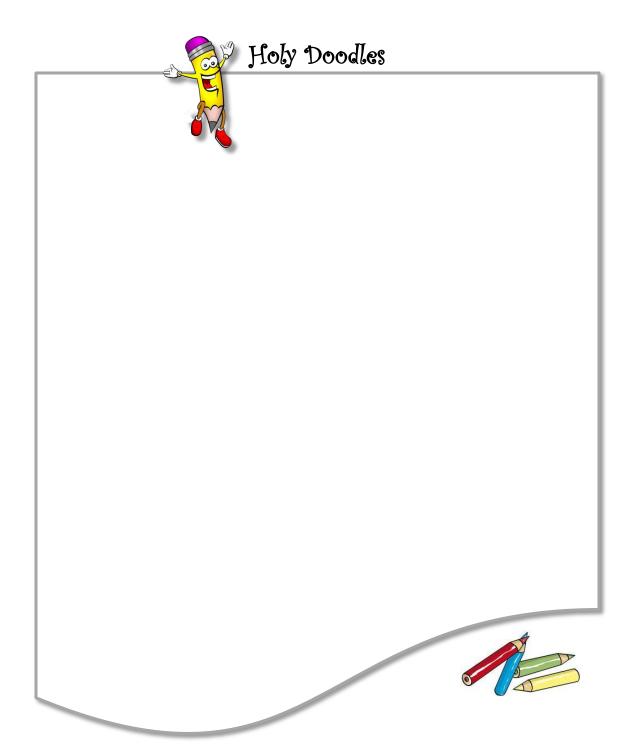
Meatballs or

Spaghetti Os









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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager