Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 29, 2017

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: Rejoice, the Lord Is King Burkhardt

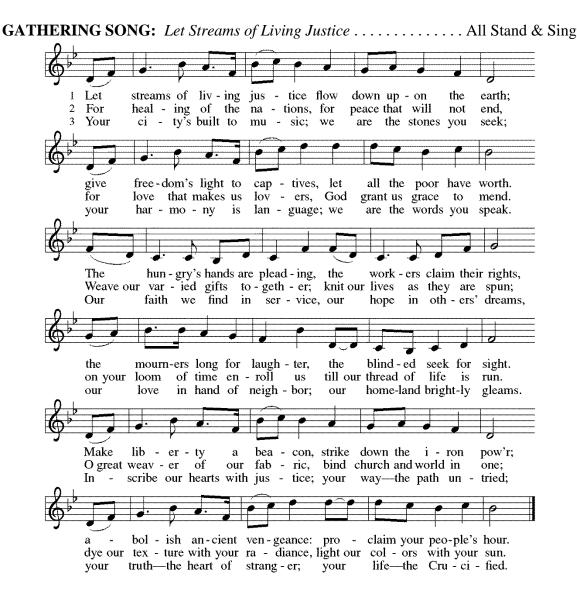
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Loving God,
- C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.
- P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of \pm Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

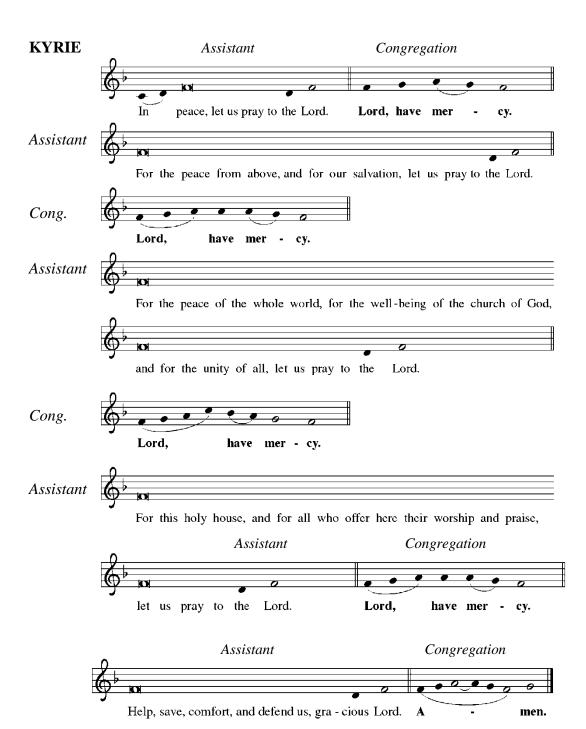


Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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.



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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 Micah 6:1–8

A reading from the sixth chapter of Micah.

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,

and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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





GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

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

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

 HYMN OF THE DAY: Blest Are They All Stand & Sing



Text: David Haas, b. 1957 Music: BLEST ARE THEY, David Haas

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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

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

We pray for wholeness in the body of Christ. Bind up fractures within the church. Humble the proud and lift up the lowly. Make us one at your table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the beauty of the universe. For the light of the stars, for the majesty of the mountains, we thank you. Mold us into stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peacemakers around the world. End violence. Restore communities. Stop corruption within political systems. Reign with justice and peace and commit us to this act of discipleship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our neighbors who mourn, who have no clean water, who hunger. Provide their daily bread. Heal the forgotten, the lost, and our enemies, family, and friends (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for this congregation. Bless the work and play of young and old. Deepen our faith. Expand our discipleship. Equip us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for all the saints who died proclaiming the gospel. Strengthen us through their witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

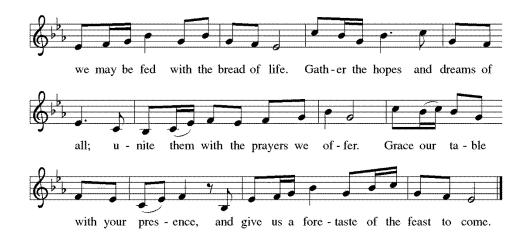
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord Chamber Choir

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

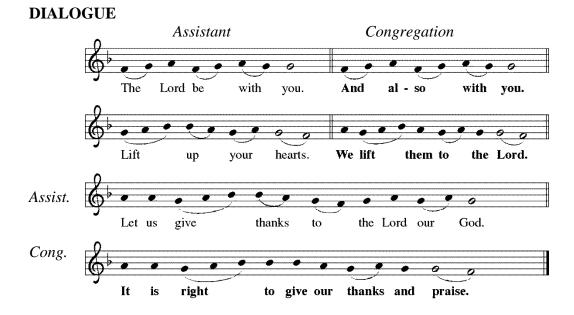




OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

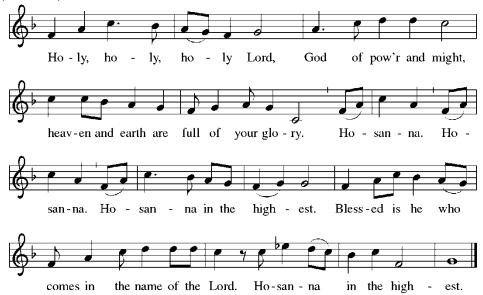
C Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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 We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

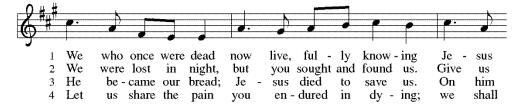
C Thanks be to God

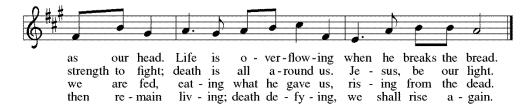




COMMUNION

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.





5 Jesus, you were dead, but you rose and, living, made yourself our bread, in your goodness giving life though we were dead. 6 This is your design; in this meal we meet you. Be our bread and wine, Jesus, we entreat you. This shall be our sign.

Text: Muus Jacobse, 1909–1972; tr. composite
Music: MIDDEN IN DE DOOD, Rik Veelenturf, b. 1936
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agent for English-language countries: OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

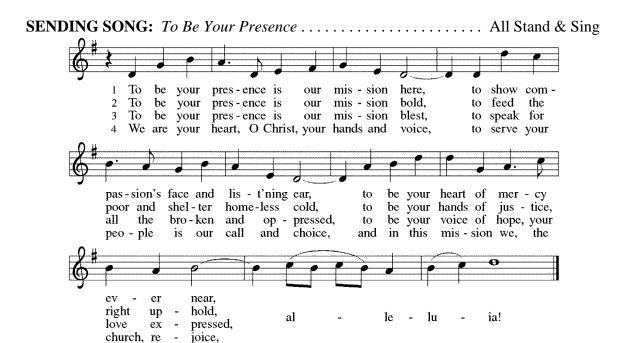
A Let us pray.

C O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852−1924

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DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany.** 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.



<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> 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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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 Deb & Steve Bingham in memory of Herman H. Kivett; and by Judy, Carly & Mollie in memory of Scott Caldwell.

<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, January 22, 2017:

Attendance: 120
Budget Report

Budget ReportJanuary 22, 2017Current Offering Received\$ 7,495.00Weekly Budget Expenses\$ 5,656.42Offering, Year-To-Date\$ 19,643.00Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD\$ 1,867.88

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Katie Kessen

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers TELLERS: Amanda & Nathan Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

USHERS: Volunteers

Melissa Bocchino

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

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

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 29-February 4

February 4 Scott Carr



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, January 29

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 Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, January 31

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 1

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

BCO Items of the month for February: School supplies for the children as they begin the second half of the school year. **Any supplies are welcome**.

On Sunday, February 5, the youth of Holy Comforter will collect for the





More than 25 years ago, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated by you goes to Belmont Community Organization (BCO).



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Dot Holland Denise Taylor
Shirley Causby Zac Hullander Jack Tench
Tommy Causby Chase Lineberger Mark Reese
Brenda Dabrowski Holly Peche Beverly Reynolds
Shawn De Nicholas Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro Carol Fox Donnie Yavelak Ted Eddings Capt. Basil Jeff Marett

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner

Ardean Ewing



OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Mike Kelso

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.

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

