

# *Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter*

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 9, 2022

## *Baptism Of Our Lord*



### **WELCOME/GATHERING:**

**PRELUDE:** As With Gladness Men of Old . . . . . 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 creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**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 your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.  
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

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## 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.

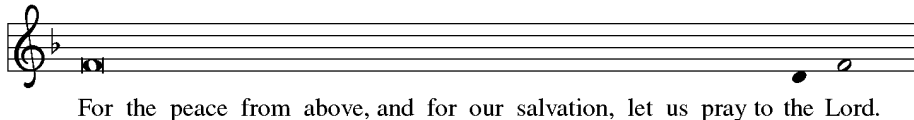
## KYRIE

*Pastor*

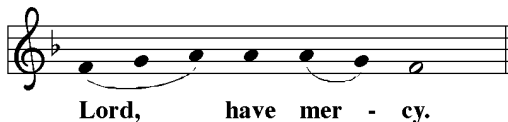
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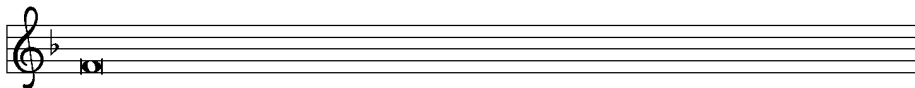
**P**



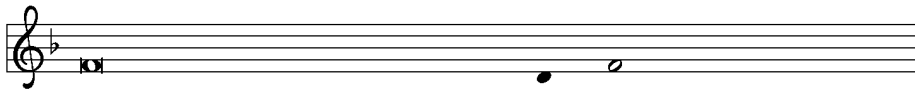
**C**



*P*



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



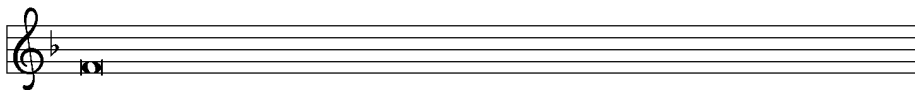
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*



Lord, have mer - cy.

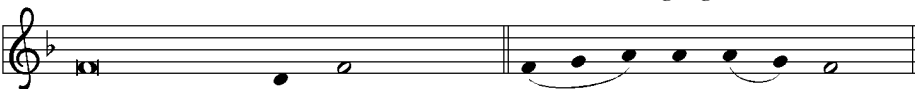
*P*



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

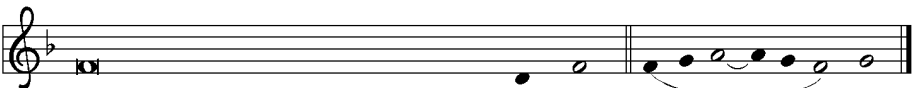
*Pastor*

*Congregation*



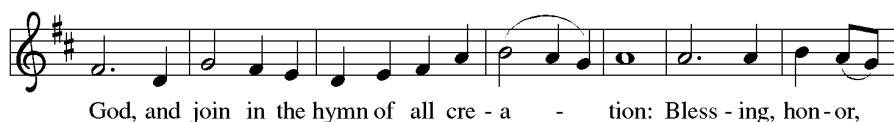
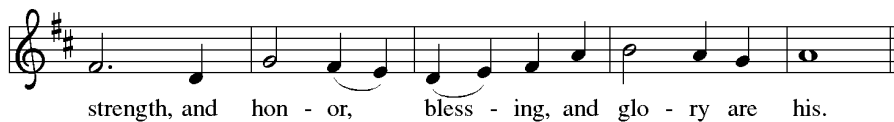
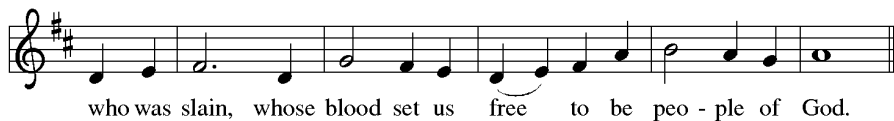
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

# THIS IS THE FEAST ..... All Sing





glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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.



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.



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

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from the forty third chapter of Isaiah.

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

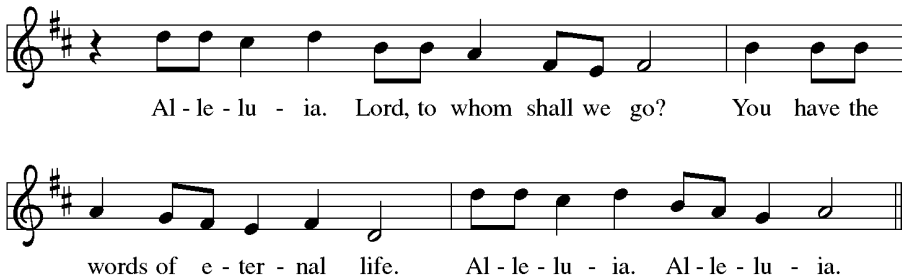
*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am

not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Crashing Waters At Creation.* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876  
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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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation

for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

**ANTHEM:** *God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* . . . . . Church Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray.

**C** **Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.**

## DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

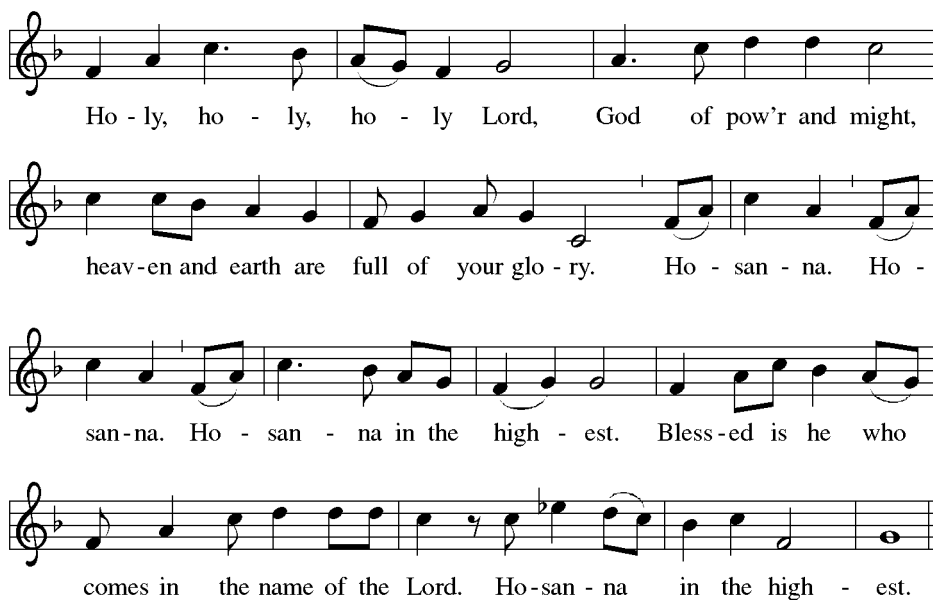
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C 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 -  
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** Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## **COMMUNION**

*During communion the congregation will be invited forward by rows, starting in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You will then return to your seat where you may briefly remove your mask to eat and drink, and then quickly replace it. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.*

## 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.

## POSTLUDE: Recessional in C . . . . . Dixon

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, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING

P God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ☩ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING

P Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

\*Flutist: Julia Gunter

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*Holy Doodles*





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