

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 27, 2014

## The Second Sunday of Easter



John Propst  
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *The Bells of Holy Comforter* ..... Carillon

### 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, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

**C Amen.**

**P** Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of life,

**C** by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**P** People of God:

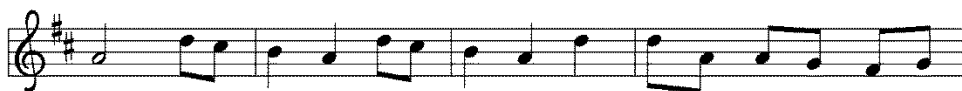
Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers  
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
 sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.  
 C And also with you.

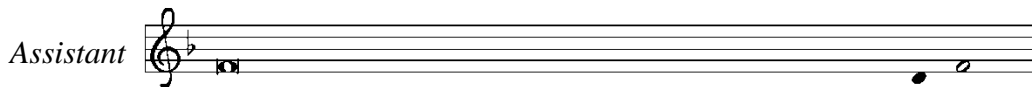
## KYRIE

*Assistant*

*Congregation*



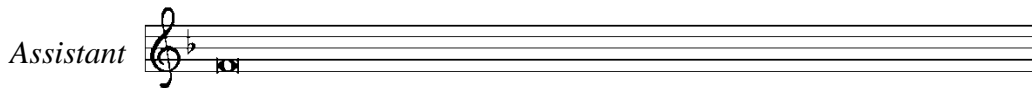
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



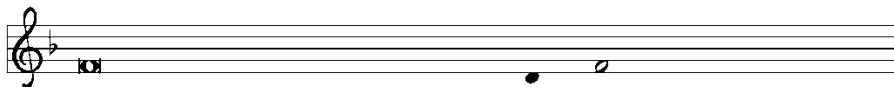
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



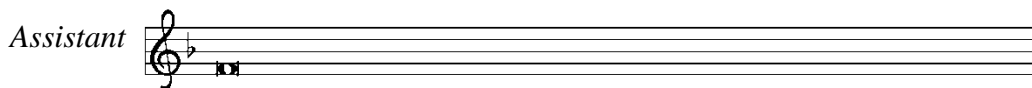
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



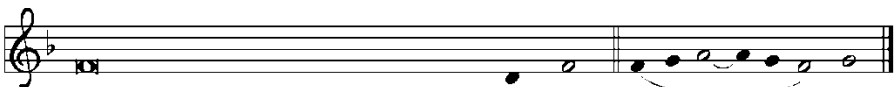
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

*Congregation*

Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## GLORY TO GOD



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's

blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

*Congregation is Seated*

## 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 2:14a, 22–32**

A reading from the second chapter of Acts.

*After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

<sup>14a</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, <sup>22</sup>You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup>Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his

throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 16.** . . . . . All Read Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the LORD,  
"You are my Lord, my good above all other."

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips. R**

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a <sup>1</sup>pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a <sup>1</sup>rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who <sup>1</sup>gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night <sup>1</sup>after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD al- <sup>1</sup>ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall <sup>1</sup>not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- <sup>1</sup>it rejoices;  
my body also shall <sup>1</sup>rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me <sup>1</sup>to the grave,  
nor let your holy one <sup>1</sup>see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the <sup>1</sup>path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for- <sup>1</sup>evermore.

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 1:3–9**

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Peter.

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering*

*because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**John 20:19–31**

The holy gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house

where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

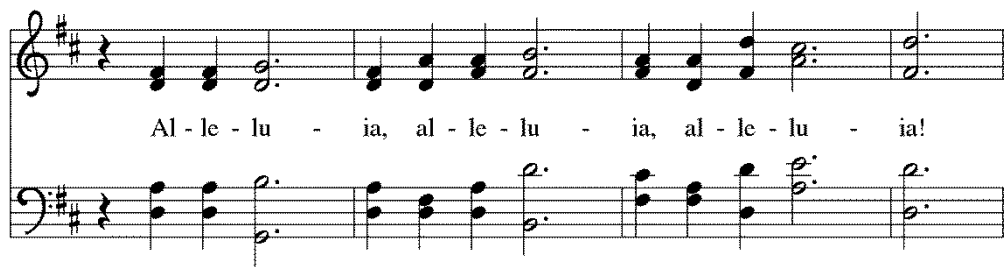
<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON:** *"Doubt...Not Always a Bad Thing!"* (Notes pages 15-16) . . . . . Pastor John

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *The Strife Is O're, the Battle Done* . . . . . All Stand & Sing





1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenium*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909  
 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## 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.**

\* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

## **PEACE**

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

**C** And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* . . . Scholtes

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** . . . . . All Stand and Sing



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made alive in Christ and filled with his Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Ever-living God, you awaken faith amidst our doubts and fears. Reveal your presence so that we recognize your power at work in your church and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, the earth receives your promise of new life: seeds die to bear fruit and plants decay to nourish the soil. Restore all living things as you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Giver of peace, when you make your presence known, you do so by offering peace. Bring such peace to peoples and nations ravaged by war, violence, and natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you breathe hope into rooms of despair. Be with the sick, the lonely, the grieving, and those in any need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of welcome, you are with this assembly as we worship. Bless all those who God draws to this community and be with those who cannot be present this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, with you all things are possible. With the saints make us live in hope, trusting that though we do not see, we believe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

**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.

## BLESSING

P The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Thine Is the Glory* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

**COMMUNION OFFERED** immediately after the service at the altar.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Second 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

**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 online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by the De Nicholas Family in honor of Dianne Lail.

**Those who have placed flowers on the altar** may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music Committee***

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 20, 2014:**

Attendance: Sunrise Service: 105; Regular Service: 176

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>April 20, 2014</u></b>
Current Offering Received 4/20/14	\$ 3,835.11
Weekly Budget Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 69,490.04
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 5,196.81
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 1,929.41)

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr. + Julia Gunter

**GREETER:** Need Volunteer

**ACOLYTES:** Becca Gatlin  
Matthew Carr, Alec Via

**TELLERS:** Jerri & Mike Wesson

**USHERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**CRUCIFERS:** Hannah Carnes, Molly Koehler, Noah Rogers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)  
Bev Mauney, Co-Captain  
Brad Milton, Co-Captain  
Carmen De Nicholas  
Brandy Milton

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)  
*Need Volunteers*

**PERCUSSION:** Elizabeth Bruchon

**NOTE: Volunteers are needed** to help in the nursery. A sign-up sheet is located on a clipboard in the crib in the nursery. All help is greatly appreciated!

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK:** April 27-May 3

Today, April 27 Bobby Lingerfelt  
April 28 Joseph Mitchell  
Rita Stewart  
Susan Woodcock

April 30 Deb Williams  
May 1 Katie Kessen  
May 2 Lucy Bocchino  
May 3 Sonja Kreitzer

## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, Sunday, April 20**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room  
10:30 am The Service  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Adult Handbells  
6:00 pm Church Choir  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Tuesday, April 22**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon



**SAVE THE DATE: June 27-28** (Friday evening and Saturday) is the date for our **Vacation Bible School** for Pre-K through Grade 5. Make plans now to attend.



## **Sermon Notes: “Doubt...Not Always a Bad Thing!”**

New Sign for the Church door: *“Have Doubts about your Faith? Come on in! Welcome to the Club!”*

### **1. Believers Experience Doubt!**

Doubt...not necessarily opposite of faith; rather to *“hesitate in belief”* and that’s not all bad!

If you have doubts, you’re in good company with folks like: Abraham & Sarah, Moses, Job, Thomas, Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, the disciples and *even* Jesus!

- **Paul Tillich:** (theologian) *“doubt isn’t the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith”*
- **Martin Luther:** *“knowledge & doubt are inseparable; only God & certain madmen have no doubts”*

- **C.S. Lewis:** (Christian writer) *“now that I am a Christian I do have moods in which the whole thing looks very improbable; but when I was an atheist I had moods in which Christianity looked terribly probable”*
  - **The Disciples** just before Jesus’ ascension (Great Commission) *“they worshipped Jesus and some doubted”*
  - **Frederick Buechner** (writer) *“if you don’t have any doubts you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake & moving!”*
- + + + + +
2. **Doubt Can be a Gift!** It can bring us to an affirmation like Thomas: *“my Lord and my God!”*

### 3. Spiritual Growth is Possible in the Midst of Doubt

#### **Applying God’s Word to Our Faith Life:**

*“Test everything; hold on to the good.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5:21 from Today’s NIV)

How do we **test** in regards to doubt & faith?

1. Prayer
2. Scripture
3. Spiritual friend

+ + + + +

**Have doubts?** ... pray, read scripture, talk to a Spiritual friend

#### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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**

John Propst, Interim Pastor; email: [JohnCPropst@gmail.com](mailto:JohnCPropst@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager