# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 7, 2019

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

#### **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 gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

#### C Amen.

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

#### Silence is kept for reflection.

#### P God at the margins,

C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of + Christ, leading you from death into life.

#### C Amen.

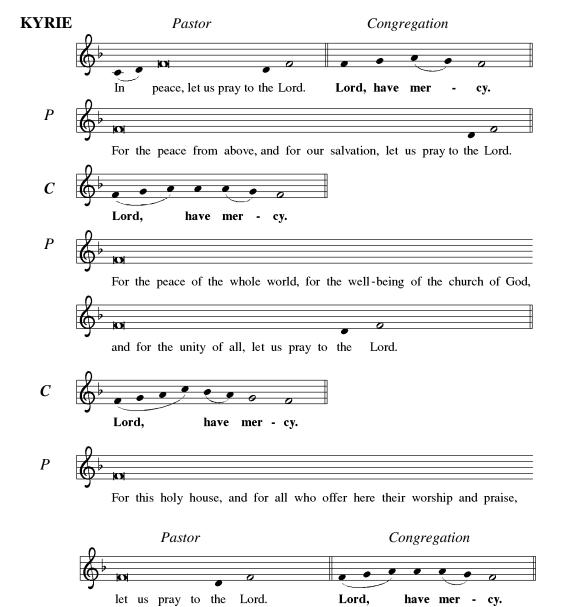


Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBENS, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

#### **GREETING**

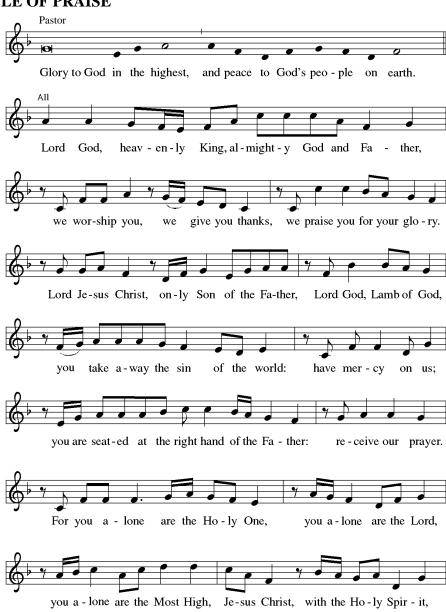
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### C And also with you.





#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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 Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the forty-third chapter of Isaiah.

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

A The word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.



<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion, then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

A reading from the third chapter of Philippians.

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





GOSPEL John 12:1-8

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

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred

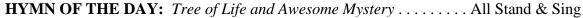


denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

The assembly is seated

Silence is Kept for Reflection.





Verse 4: Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
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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.

#### **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

your sal - va - tion,

C And also with you.

#### **OFFERING**

with your free Spir - it.

and up-hold me

#### OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

#### A brief silence.

God of resurrection and new life, inspire your church to reconsider what makes us holy. When we focus on our own piety or others' sin, show us Christ's faithfulness. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Wherever destruction by flood, famine, or fire has devastated land and lives, cause green shoots to spring up, giving hope and vision for your promised future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Where nations are embroiled in chaos and unrest, cut a clear path for your people to follow. Lead us in ways of reconciliation, and foretell the new things you prepare. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor and despair (*especially*). Restore them, and bring them into the joy of your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Permeate this world with the sweet perfume of Christ's anointing. Fill your people with such gratitude that it spills over into service of those who are poor or in any need. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Accompany those for whom death draws near. Bring us with all your saints to receive the abundance of heavenly glory through the covenant Christ sealed in his death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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,

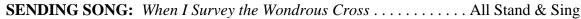
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

#### BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C Amen.





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

#### **SENDING**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

#### C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **The Fifth Sunday in Lent.** 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.

<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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at www.holyc.org.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Greg Cline in honor of Shirley Causby's birthday; and in honor of Myra Hollar with love from her family.

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

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

#### Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 31, 2019:

Attendance: 132

Budget Report	This Week	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$ 4,272.00	\$ 66,654.01
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$ 76,839.45</u>
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 1,502.35)	<u>(\$ 10,185.44)</u>
Expected Expenses		\$ 75,616.44
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 8,962.43)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 3/31/19

\$225,000 Goal: Received to Date: 148,489 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 \$ 41.511 Remaining Needed:

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Julia Gunter **GREETER:** Katie Howard

**ACOLYTE:** Lucy Bocchino **TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

**CRUCIFER:** Alec Via

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3) Sherry Alexander

Fran Holland, Co-Captain Tracey Nault, Co-Captain **NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Rebecca Yount Rianna Nance

**USHERS:** Volunteers

#### THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, April 7

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service

Blood pressure check after 2:00 pm Confirmation

5:00 pm Adult Handbells, HCY

6:00 pm Church Choir practice

Tuesday, April 9

7:00 pm Social Ministry meeting

Nar-Anon



## Wednesday, April 10

5:30 pm Youth Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, April 11

11:00 am Prime Timers Bible Study

12 Noon Lunch

7:00 pm Evangelism meeting

PEP Exercise

Saturday, April 13

Staying Connected carpools to 8:15 am

Loaves & Fishes in Charlotte. Volunteer from 9-11 am.

Wear closed toe shoes.

#### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 7-13**

Today, April 7 Teresa Keller

April 8 Shirley Causby Fran Holland

April 10 Bryan Fleming

April 11 Matthew Mitchell





A signup sheet for the *Isle of Palms Retreat* is in the church office hallway. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay. Checks payable to Holy Comforter. *IOP Retreat* on memo line.



**MISSION TRIP:** Shelia Kelly is part of a team heading to Kitwe, Zambia April 25 - May 6. The team is busy preparing duffle bags of clothes, shoes, and much needed baby items for the poor.

Contact Shelia or Tim Kelly to purchase raffle tickets to raise funds for the trip.

Purchasing and installing a water tank for the village is the big project the team is doing. That is where most of the cost of the tickets will go.

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



#### 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 Jerri & Mike Wesson

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Dallas Foscue
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett

The Family of
Ronnie Garrison
Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Ruth Lyerly
Cookie Lynn

Jane Marino Clarence McLain Anne Murdy Richard Peters Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates

#### **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.



**Supercharge Your Diet!** Many nutrients actually have a synergistic effect – working better in combos. And what's terrific is that the foods that contain these nutrients tend to taste great together, so try the following:

**Broccoli** + **Salmon** = stronger bones. The body can't form calcitriol – a hormone that helps calcium absorption – without vitamin D. Pair calcium-rich broccoli with vitamin D-rich salmon.

**Green tea** + **Lemon** = Reduced inflammation. Adding lemon juice to a cup of green tea helps the body take in up to five times more catechins – inflammation-fighting antioxidants found in the tea.

**Salsa** + **Avocado** = reduced cancer risk and increased immunity. A 2005 study found that folks who ate a ½-cup of avocado with a cup and a half of salsa absorbed 4.4 times more lycopene – a nutrient linked to reduced risk of prostate and ovarian cancers – and 2.6 times more immune-boosting beta carotene.

Whole-grain bread + OJ = more energy. Grains are the most plentiful non-meat source of iron, but iron is better absorbed with vitamin C so coupling your whole-grain bread with a cup of orange juice doubles the amount of iron your body absorbs. So, take advantage of some of these food combinations! Your body will thank you!



Did you forget to sign up for P.E.P. (People Exercising with Purpose)? It's ok...come join us anyway!

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. See you then!



Today, April 7 after the service

# The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2019-2020 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. The deadline for your *completed* application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30. Any applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The annual deadline April 30<sup>th</sup> and the awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- Total amount in the fund
- · Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry

#### **Collection for Migrant Assistance Program**

Holy Comforter is collecting items for migrants who are traveling through Charlotte to their sponsors on the East Coast. We are meeting them at the Charlotte Greyhound bus terminal. We will do this on two evenings, Friday, April 12 and Friday, April 26. Please drop off any of these supplies in the Fellowship Hall (near the coffee station) by April 9. We can use up to 40 of any item, but even one (1) is appreciated!

- Pain reliever
- Cough drops
- Blankets (new/compact)
- Diapers, wipes
- Feminine hygiene products (pads)
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- Hair ties/hair brushes/combs
- Men, women and children's new underwear
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Lip balm such as Chapstick
- Hand lotion (or small tubs of Vaseline)
- Coloring books with little packs of crayons for kids
- Little fun toys to keep kids occupied during the long bus ride
- Bottled water
- Snacks-non-perishable food that's easy to travel with. Examples: animal crackers, trail mix, Cliff bars, Cheez-its

JOIN A TEAM: If you are interested in being on a team that meets the Migrants, please contact Krystyna at <a href="mailto:sarrazin1230@hotmail.com">sarrazin1230@hotmail.com</a>. Parking is free at the bus station and we will set up a table with warm food to serve and supplies for the migrants to take. It's about an hour from set-up to when they leave on the next leg of their journey (however flexibility is key! Buses generally do not run on time.) We will be connected via phone/text and keep track of bus for time of arrival.



If you can prepare a warm meal for about 20 people (preferably Hispanic-type food or hot soup) let Krystyna know at 980-318-7496 or via her email listed above.













Please place your Easter Lily Order by filling in the form below. You may then return the form to the church office or place in the offering plate. All orders must be accompanied by payment at time of order so that we can keep a proper accounting of your gifts and reduce the possibilities of errors. Please PRINT CLEARLY your name and the name of person/persons you are *honoring* or placing the Easter lilies *in memory of.* The cost of each lily is \$15.00. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Easter Lily Order Form		
Your Name: Today's Date:		
Telephone Number: Number of lilies ordered:		
□ In Honor Of:         □ In Memory Of:         □ To The Glory of God:         □ Paid Check       □ Paid Cash       □ Mailed Payment    Make checks payable to Holy Comforter with "Faster Lily" on memo line		
Make checks payable to Holy Comforter with "Easter Lily" on memo line.		





Join us for Holy Comforter's annual Easter Egg Hunt!
Bring your Easter Baskets.



# Holy Doodles



#### **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