Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 7, 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ, by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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: All People That On Earth Do Dwell All Stand and Sing

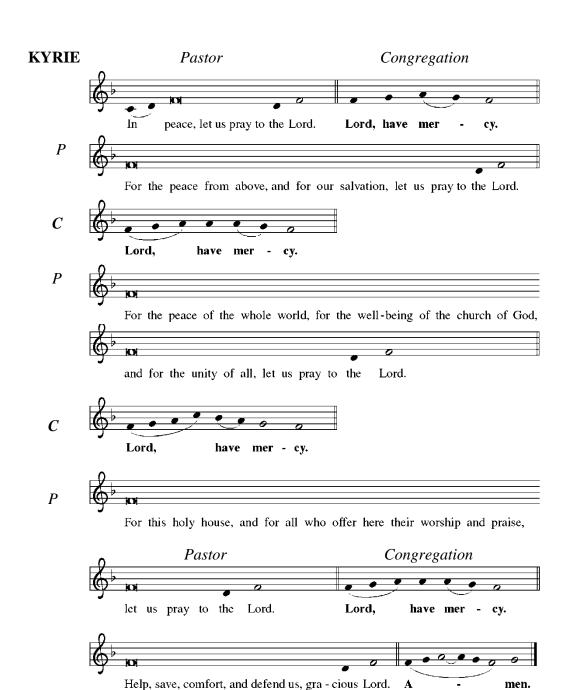


Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

A reading from the second chapter of Acts.

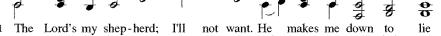
Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was outpoured on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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





- 2 My soul he doth re store a gain, and me to walk doth make
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
- 5 Good-ness and mer cy all my life shall sure ly fol low me,





pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by. with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake; with me, and thy rod and thou art staff me com - fort head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. my in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall





lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters He with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake. and thy rod and staff me com - fort for thou art with me, still. a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. head thou dost with oil in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall



Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984 Arr. © Oxford University Press. SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Peter.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 10:1-10

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

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

The assembly is seated



HYMN OF THE DAY: Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us All Stand and Sing like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care. We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way; 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be; ear - ly let us do your will; let us seek your fa - vor, your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare. seek us when we go a-stray. keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, a - stray. grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. bless-ed Bless-ed Je-sus, Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you. you have loved us, love us Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, still. you have bought us; we are yours. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let to you. us turn you have loved us, love us still. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je-sus,

> Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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.

C And also with you.



OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Standin' in the Need of Prayer Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Have No Fear, Little Flock All Stand & Sing

1. Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!

2. Have good cheer little flock; Have good cheer, little flock, For the Father will keep you In his love forever; Have good cheer, little flock! 3. Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above, For he stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4

4. Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God, For he stays close beside you, In all things works with you; Thankful hearts raise to God!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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. Strengthen ministers of word, sacrament, and service who are called to shepherd your people. Renew your church and unite us through your Spirit. Send us out to serve our neighbors and to receive their care with gratitude. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For pastures and prairies, rivers and streams, oceans and mountains. For those who care for livestock and pets. For all animals, wild and domestic, with whom we share this world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Guide leaders into the path of peace. Uphold all who govern. Bring an end to injustice, warfare, and violence. Protect those who risk their lives to shield others from danger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who lack safe housing and adequate food. For workers whose pay is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For ushers, acolytes, and greeters. For those who clean and prepare this space for worship. Give wisdom to our councils, committees, and all who guide this congregation's ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. In your goodness and mercy, bring us to the fulfillment of your promise to dwell in your house forever. 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.

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.

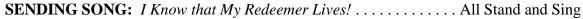
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

P 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.





- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

DISMISSAL

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

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this The Fourth 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. 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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in honor of her children and grandchildren; and by Pat Koehler in memory of her mother Louise Hawley.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar 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, April 30, 2017:

Attendance: 111

| Budget Report | April 30, 2017 | Year-to-Date |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Offering | \$ 7,106.00 | \$ 93,629.75 |
| Expenses | <u>\$ 5,656.42</u> | <u>\$ 99,074.92</u> |
| Offering less Expenses | <u>\$ 1,449.58</u> | <u>(\$ 5,445.17)</u> |
| Budgeted Expenses | | \$ 99,074.92 |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses | | (\$ 4,141.14) |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Judy Caldwell GREETER: Sherry Alexander

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Volunteers Infants: Volunteers; Toddlers: Staff

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Fran Holland, Co-Captain Veronica Bryant Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Rebecca Yount USHERS: Need Volunteers

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

Katie Kessen, Amanda Kelly

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 7-13

Today, May 7 Dianne Lail May 10 Zac Hullander
Alec Via May 12 Jennifer Perez
May 8 Jimmy Spikes May 13 Pakekeh Milto

May 8 Jimmy Spikes May 13 Rebekah Milton May 9 Anthony DiBiase

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, May 7

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service

2:00 pm Confirmation Class

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, May 9

7:00 pm Property Committee Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 10

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Saturday, May 13

11:00 am Kids' Club meets at

the church to carpool to Kate's Skating Rink



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 will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5th. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!



Beginning Next Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14 until Father's Day, June 18st, we will be collecting loose change in baby bottles for a very special project...Baby Bottle Blessings that will *Change* countless lives.

Your spare pocket change can help provide numerous services to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Some of the services include peer counseling, maternity and baby clothes, ultrasounds, and more.

You do not have to fill the bottles completely. However, what you do collect will be greatly appreciated.

The baby bottles will be received June 18th and returned to The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County (5 locations across Gaston County).



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.

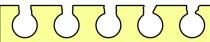
During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at

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.**

BCO May Items of the Month...





Packaged crackers

Packaged cookies

Canned Pasta:

Ex. Spaghetti &

Meatballs or

Spaghetti Os







Sts PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

| Cathleen Allen |
|-------------------|
| Brenda Dabrowski |
| Shawn De Nicholas |
| Ardean Ewing |
| Ned Featherstone |

Dot Holland Zac Hullander Chase Lineberger Holly Peche Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

| Father Frank Cancro |
|---------------------|
| Teresa Beale Davis |
| Karen de la Vega |
| Carol Fox |
| Scott Frisk |

Bill Hinkle Glenda Hinkle Brian Jackson & Family Jennifer Lineberger Capt. Basil Jeff Marett Anne Murdy Heather Plichta Karen Wayt Donnie Yavelak

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner

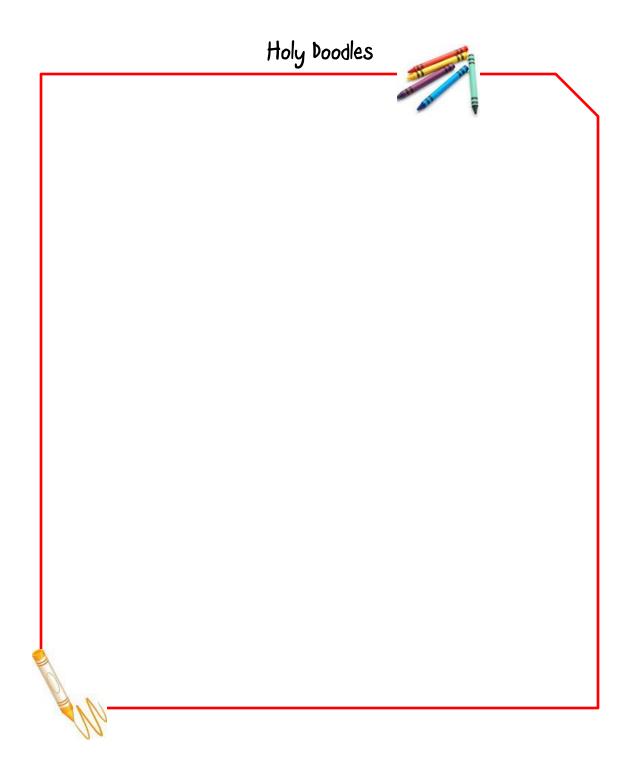
OUR SERVICEMEN

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



Through the month of May we are collecting new and gently used athletic balls and sports equipment to donate to *Boys and Girls Club*. As part of this collection, we will have a **Holy Comforter Field Day** at the church on **May 21 at 2 pm**. Come play with us, laugh with us, or cheer for us, and bring something to donate!





Piper Williams, daughter of Kristen and Elliott Williams, will be baptized at *Lutheridge* this Saturday, May 13, at Noon. If you'd like to come for worship and lunch you are welcome, just let Kristen or Elliott know by Tuesday, May 9. Pastor Micah and Elliott's father, Pastor Greg Williams, will lead worship.

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