

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 8, 2017

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Now Thank We All Our God* J. S. Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High! All Stand & Sing*



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



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

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Congregation



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


P




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

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,

[illegible]

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Pastor



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 scat-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.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through 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

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the fifth chapter of Isaiah.

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;
 I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his pleasant planting;
 he expected justice,
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness,
 but heard a cry!

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 80:7-16 **All Sing**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁸**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
⁹You cleared the | ground for it;
 it took root and | filled the land.
¹⁰**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.
¹¹You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
 and its branches | to the river.
¹²**Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?

¹³The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

¹⁶**They have burned it with fire, they have | cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke | of your countenance.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from the third chapter of Philippians.

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised 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; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

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

⁸More 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 ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Beloved, 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, ¹⁴I 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

Matthew 21:33-46

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”



⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be

broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* All Stand & Sing



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

**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.**

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *You Are Holy* Church Choir
All Sing in Unison; Repeat in Canon, Women begin

You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945
Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling
Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America,
South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, musicians, devotion writers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. In company with them, root us firmly in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

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.**

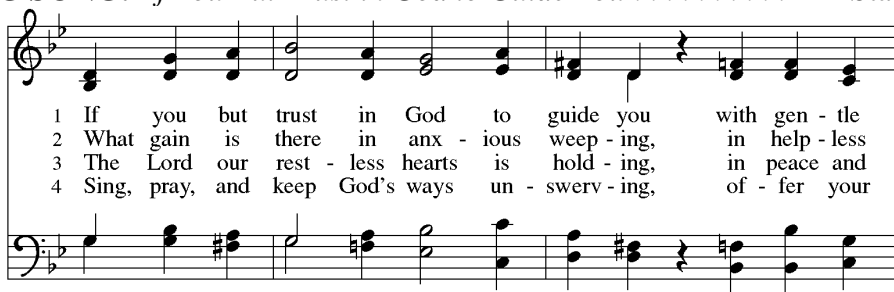
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

P God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

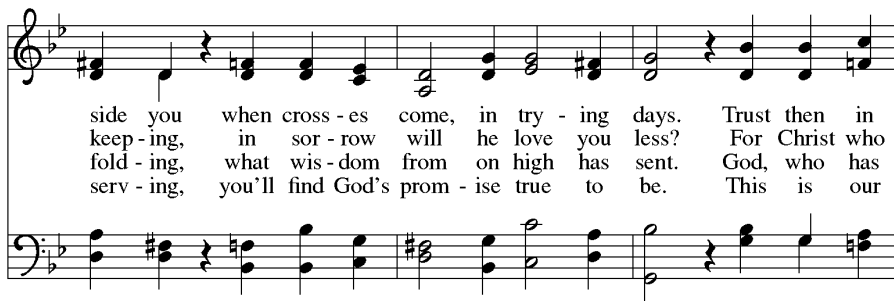
SENDING SONG: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* All Stand & Sing



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

P Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. 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 Shelia Kelly in honor of Tim's birthday; and by Horace Bean & Donna Bean in memory of Faye H. Bean and the Hamiton family.

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

Offering and Attendance Report for October 1, 2017:

Attendance: 111

Budget Report

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 9,726.00	\$ 204,193.43
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 214,114.60
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 4,069.58)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,921.17)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 221,406.35</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 17,212.92)</u>

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: October 8-14

Today, October 8 Brenda Daly

October 10 Tim Kelly

October 11 Evan Howard
Pat Roberson

October 12 Dee Tucker



October 14 Jean Ferguson
Linda Grimsley
Stephanie Hinrichs
Jeff Howard

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Jim Buell

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Fran Holland
Trudy Whitener

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jill Cassel

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, October 8

9:30 am Sunday School

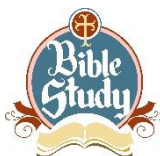
10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service
Church Council after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir



Tuesday, October 10

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, October 11

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Kathie Schaumburg
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Marsha Barr
Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid
Jennifer Lineberger

Anne Murdy
Karen Wayt
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer



Leo 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 in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Holy Doodles



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Attendance October 1, 2017

Middle School	1
Upper Grades	6
Lower Grades	3
Preschool	4
Seekers	11
Teachers	4
Totals:	29



We need you!

Trunk or Treat is right around the corner
and we are looking for *spook-tastic* volunteers
to make this a success.

We are looking to make this year bigger and better!

To do this we need your help.

If you *dare* to be a part of this event on Saturday,

October 28 from 4:00-6:00 pm,
please contact Tom Bocchino.



BCO October Items of the Month



Canned Soups



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