Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 9, 2014

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



John Propst Interim 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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy and faithful God,,
- C we so often choose our own way instead of yours. We think we can evade your commandments. We have spoken in ways that kill, strayed with our hearts, betrayed friends, and hated enemies. We have broken our promises. Search us deeply and create us anew. Lift the heavy burden of our sin and free us to follow your way of life. Amen.
- P "Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer." Our God has come among us to loose every bond and set us free from all that weighs us down. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of + Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

C Amen.





- Here in this place the new light is stream-ing,
- We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
- Not in the dark build-ings con - fin - ing, of not in some heav - en,

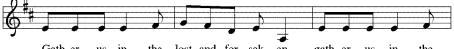


van - ished a - way; yearn for your face; bread of new birth, light years a - way-

see in this space our fears and our dream-ings we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters, here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you the day. called to be light the whole hu race. to man call us a - new to be salt for the earth. the king - dom, and the day. now now is



Gath-er lost and for - sak - en, us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us in. the Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us in and

gath-er us in, the gath-er us in, the give us to eat the gath-er us in and

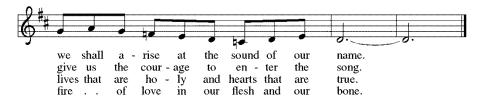
now is the dark - ness



blind and the lame; proud and the strong; bread that is you; make us your own;

call to us now, and give us a heart, SO nour-ish us well. and all gath - er in, $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{s}$

we shall a - wak - en, meek and so low - ly, teach us to fash-ion peo-ples to-geth-er,



our

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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our

in

love

GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.





GLORY TO GOD





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.

By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 Isaiah 58:1–9a

A reading from the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD

and have great delight in God's commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;

the generation of the upright | will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,

and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending

and to manage their af- fairs with justice.

⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlast- ing remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and | will not shrink,

until they see their desire up- on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor,

and their righteousness stands † fast forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry;

they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;

the desires of the wick- ed will perish.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus

Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 5:13–20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

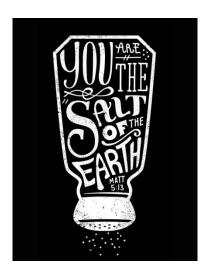
In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God?s commandments.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

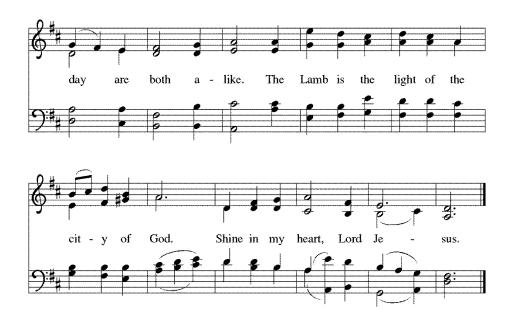
¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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



HYMN OF THE DAY: I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light All Stand & Sing





Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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.

^{*} catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

OFFERING



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Your light springs forth like the dawn. Call your church to share the mystery of your grace with a broken and searching world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Increase our care for the earth and all its creatures. Help us reflect your light in our use of these good gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You care for the weak and the strong, O God. Raise up leaders who will free the oppressed in all places. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Quickly send your healing for all in pain. Feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give light and life to this gathering of faith, that we may delight to know your ways and share them with a world longing to know you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Satisfy our needs until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your glorious light. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING 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: care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare: fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:

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



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

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany. 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. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form found at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Tim & Debbie Baker in honor of Church Council members for their love, dedication & service to Holy Comforter: and by Dennis & Deva Tucker in celebration of their 39th wedding anniversary.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 2, 2014:

Attendance: 127 **Budget Report** February 2 Current Offering Received 2/2/14 6,668.00 Budget Expenses, Month-To-Date 1.283.50 Offering, Month-To-Date 6,668.00

The Current Offering Received for the year through February 2, 2014 is \$4,703.86 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jo Singleton **CANTOR**: Gayla Foscue

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2) **DUET:** Gayla Foscue & Louise Day, Co-Captain Brenda Daly, Co-Captain Nancy Powell Becky Richards

Elizabeth Bruchon

GREETERS: Jo Singleton & Ginger MacDonald

<u>TELLERS:</u> Lynn Martin, Sherry Perry <u>USHERS:</u> Need Volunteers

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

Today, Feb. 9: Maria Carr & Madison Carr

Feb. 16: Need Volunteers

Feb. 23: Melissa Bocchino & Ashley Ange March 2: Ginger & Chuck MacDonald

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 9-15

Today, February 9 Shelia Kelly

Karen Rogers

February 10 Jennipher Martin February 14 Will Howard February 15 Leslie Crist Sam Thompson Reesa Wilson

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, February 9

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service

Church Council meets after

4:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir 5:00 pm Church Choir **Dinner** 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

HCY

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, February 11

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Friday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sunday, February 16

Fellowship & Volunteer Lunch

after the service.



Share Your Love! Bring a covered dish and a cheerful heart to learn how you can enhance the church in response to God's word and gifts given to you. Any age, any or no experience...your church needs you!

We will gather **Sunday**, **February 16**, immediately after the worship service for a *Fellowship & Volunteer Luncheon*. The church will provide fried & rotisserie chicken.



Accept this invitation for you to join an *Inquiring Heart* Class on Sundays mornings at **9:30 am on February 9, 16, 23 & March 2**. These classes, led by Pastor John, will be conversational & enjoyable. The classes are good for anyone...those new to Holy Comforter or those who would like a "refresher" on our beliefs. Email Pastor John at JohnCPropst@gmail.com. Class meets in the church parlor in the education building.

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Do you need help figuring out where your place is in serving your Church and community?

If these questions intrigue you, or if you just want to explore the topic of spiritual gifts, you are invited to join an exciting **new class** being offered at Holy Comforter. An **8-week series called "Discovering God's Vision For Your Life" continues during the Sunday School hour in the Seekers classroom**. All materials will be provided to help you learn about your unique set of spiritual gifts and why they are so important.



Camp Agape

Rising 1st Graders — Rising 8th Graders!

It is hard to believe, but it is time to start planning for summer camp again. Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape July* 14-18. *Agape* is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we are expanding the day camp to include 6th-8th graders. The kids in this age 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 of from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$125 per camper and is <u>due at the time of registration</u>. There is only room for 20 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.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator

MENT[©]R A Child

Sarah Little is a counselor at Belmont Middle School and she is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Mt. Holly. **Belmont Middle needs mentors!** Mentoring is such a rewarding experience. Their mentors typically meet with students for one hour, once a week during school hours. They do fun activities, talk, play games (even on iPads), or work on school work. One of her mentors does woodcraft and Legos with the three boys he mentors. PLEASE pray about this potentially life-changing experience/ministry.

PLEASE contact Sarah today! Her school phone number is 704-825-9610, extension 244. Her email: sblittle@gaston.k12.nc.us. Contact Pastor John if you'd like more information.

Eligible members for 2013 Thrivent Choice Dollars reminded to have your designations in by March 31, 2014. Questions? Call Myra Hollar 704-825-5885.

Sermon Notes + "Salt Life"

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage."

(Matthew 5:13 from *The Message*)

Jesus expects something extraordinary from us for the sake of God!

A believer's faith can provide Spiritual seasoning that ...

- 1. ... gives life joy and meaning (John 15:11)
- 2. ... is pure and has a high standard in speech, thought, and behavior (Philippians 4:8; Matthew 5:7-9)
- 3. ... can serve as a basic "nutrient" for others (John 21:15-17)
- 4. ... can promote healing (Matthew 25:37-40)
- 5. ... can melt even the most difficult "ice on the roads" (Matthew 22:37-40)
- 6. ... becomes a preservative of God's goodness (Galatians 5:22-23)

Application ... why not Spiritually ponder these scripture references this week ... maybe one a day! I'll bet your "taste buds" will perk up!

> + + + + + + + Aren't you glad Jesus didn't call us to be "pepper of the earth!"

> > ++++++

"At some point in my life, I decided, rightly or wrongly so, that there are many situations I can't do much about like acts of terrorism, feelings of nationalistic prejudice, the Cold War, etc. What I try to do is concentrate on the situations that my energies can affect."

- Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets (Sesame Street)

As a believer, what situations in your environment will you affect (salt) this week?

Be the "salt shaker disciple" God's Spirit calls you to be!

Just Salt Life!



Betty Kannapel

Jason Gardner

ests PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise AustinDaniel DowdZac HullanderDeborah BinghamFerrie HedrickChase LinebergerVirginia CrumpRichard HoldenLiz Propst

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam Laura Lanuto & Family Steve Sanford Danny Bess Family Kelly Shoe Jeff Lail Dale Burris **Shore Family** Ruth Lail Ronnie Hagy Dan Martin Megan Sigler **Grady Nichols** Brian Hedrick Ramona J. Sinclair Kathy Helton Jimmy Surratt Sandra Nix Betty Fox **Dutch Passailaique** Charmaine Townsend **Buck Weatherford** Claudia Frazier Jean Peters Ronnie Hersey Taylor Propst & Family Beverly F. Wall Dennis Jordan Mara Rapplevea Gloria Ward

C

OUR SERVICEMEN

Joel Rivera (NY)

Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry 22nd Annual Chicken 'N Dumplin' FEAST!

Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm

Holy Communion Lutheran Church - corner of S. Gaston & Church Streets Dallas, NC \$8.00 Adults (All you can eat!) \$5.00 Children 12 and under

(Adult tickets available by calling 704-922-5375 or 704-922-8257.

Children's tickets sold at the door only)

Sponsored by The Men's Groups from the Dallas Area Churches. (Over \$178,854 has been raised in support of the Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry.)

Holy Communion will be offered immediately following today's service.

Please gather at the front of the sanctuary.

Pastor John will join you at the altar after he greets folks.





Prayers of Sympathy & Hope are offered to

Becke Featherstone & Sue Lahr on the death of their brother Danny Bess

WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

If you are concerned, due to inclement weather, as to whether we will have church services or planned activities, please check the following for information:

- ♦ Call the church office at 704-825-2483 and listen to recorded message
 - ♦ Check the church website at www.holyc.org
 - ♦ Watch WSOC-TV for their list of closings and/or delays
- ♦ Check your email. Please give us your email address if we do not have it.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

PO Box 666 216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 www.HolyC.org

John Propst, Interim Pastor - JohnCPropst@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:00pm (Lunch break taken sometime between Noon – 1:00pm, it varies)