Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 16, 2014

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

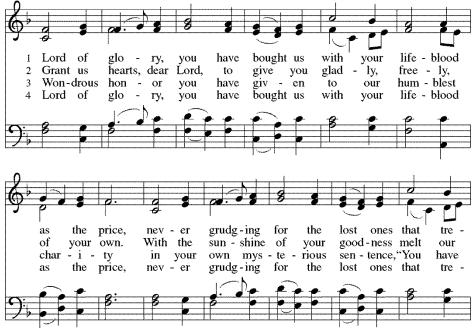


Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Come, Ye Thankful People Come. St. George's Windsor

ENTRANCE HYMN: Lord of Glory All Stand & Sing



Continued on next page...



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present Tyler Allen Cassell for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Tyler Allen Cassell baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Tyler to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in his hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer,

so that Tyler may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Tyler grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Tyler by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

- P Tyler Allen Cassell, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.
- P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Tyler with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Tyler Allen Cassell, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, 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 nursery**.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18

A reading from the first chapter of Zephaniah.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament

include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;

the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,

he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,

those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,

and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,

near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,

a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people

that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold

will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath;

in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;

for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

to you enthroned in the heavens.

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt, ⁴too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

A reading from the fifth chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid. and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: For the Fruit...... All Sing & Stand on Verse 3



Text: Fred Pran Green, 1903–2000 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vanghan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188, All rights esserved, Used by permission. Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hamad. © Oxford University Press 1906.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it continues to sow seeds of mercy, love, forgiveness, and joy, even as it anticipates your coming again to bring restoration to the new heaven and earth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all creation, for the wonder of climate and tide, of mountains, valleys, rivers, and oceans, that we become better stewards of this bounty. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations, their leaders and governments, that they replace power, pride, greed, and enmity with justice, mercy, reconciliation, and peacemaking. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the lonely, the disheartened, those who suffer from debilitating illness, those who cannot speak for themselves, and those in any need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our congregation's leaders, that they continue to encourage us and send us out in peace and love to follow your call. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints, for their faithfulness and perseverance in following you, whose examples will bring us closer to you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through 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 the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OFFERED immediately after the service at the altar.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Twenty-third 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. 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.

<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.

<u>THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY</u> are given to the glory of God by Mrs. Margaret Sparks in memory of her parents Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Rhyne.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 9, 2014:

Attendance: 155 **Budget Report November 9, 2014** Current Offering Received 11/9/14 2.529.59 Weekly Budgeted Expenses 4.504.60 Offering, YTD \$184.286.51 Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD (\$ 1,968.03) Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD (\$ 16,700.75)

NURSERY: (9:30 – 11:45 am) **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

Katie Kessen LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Elizabeth Bruchon

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: **ACOLYTES:** Garrett Carpenter Carmen De Nicholas &

Garrett Fox Natalie Hullander

CRUCIFERS: Cody Koehler, Gage Gatlin **GREETER:** Pat Koehler

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) **TELLERS:** Sherry Alexander &

Fran Holland, Co-Captain Tom Causby

Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain Courtney Gatlin **Tracey Nault USHERS:** Need Volunteers

Stephanie Hinson

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: November 16-22

Today, November 16 Dylan Fox November 19 Danny Potter

Curt Halvorson November 20 David Bruchon **Bob Wiegand** Jessica Martin

November 18 Brian Achor Lucy Mitchell

Mabel Ratchford

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, November 16 **Tuesday, November 23**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir Nar-Anon

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

10:30 am The Service

Sunday, November 23

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/**HC**

Congregational Meeting (vote for council & synod)

Luncheon/Decorate for Christmas

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon



Annual Congregational Luncheon

Decorate for Advent/Christmas On Sunday, November 23

Meat & drinks provided by the church. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert.

We will decorate the church following the luncheon.

Sunday School Attendance November 9, 2014



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|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Nursery | 5 | 2 |
| Pre-K & God's Eden | 15 | 2 |
| Youth | 1 | 1 |
| Seekers | | 6 |
| Adult Bible Class | | 13 |
| Totals: | 21 | 24 |



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

| Brian Achor & Family | Dot Holland | Carol Posey |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Louise Austin | Zac Hullander | Mabel Ratchford |
| Daniel Dowd | Bill & Pauline Joye | George Roberson |
| Cher Grant | Eva Kline | Mark Reese |
| Ferrie Hedrick | Chase Lineberger | Marguerite Shive |
| Kay Holden | Virginia Neagle | - |

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

| Harriett Ange | Dennis Jordan | Joe Reynolds |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Paige Beaver | Steven Keating | Anna Rudder |
| Jenny Beer | Marshall Kinley | Megan Sigler |
| Father Frank Cancro | Lance Kirkland | E. Taylor & Family |
| Tina Capwell | Terry Mahaffey | Gloria Ward |
| Poss Garrett | Kenadee Nelson | Pastor Gary Weant |
| Ronnie Garrison | Mark Outlaw | Olivia Wilcox |
| Lewis Gilbert Family | Taylor Propst & Family | |
| Brian Hedrick | David Prouty | |

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner 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 inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

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





S.O.C.K.S. Angel Tree



Again this year we will participate in the *Angel Tree* for S.O.C.K.S. (Serving Our Community With Kindness in Springwood). S.O.C.K.S. is located in North Belmont and serves needy families in our area.

30 name tags with the age, gender, and sizes for the child are on the tree. You may take as many tags as you like and provide Christmas for children in the community who would otherwise be without. There is a sign-up sheet this year for you to sign your name by the tag# that you take from the tree. (We need to keep up with the gifts as they come in and report to SOCKS when each child's gifts are received.)

After purchasing and wrapping the gifts, please attach the name tag to the gifts so SOCKS volunteers will know who the gifts are for. Bring your wrapped & tagged items to the church as soon as they are ready. The deadline date for returning your gifts is the 1st week of December. SOCKS does not have room to store the gifts so they will distribute to the families as soon as they are received at the SOCKS facility.

Last year this congregation provided gifts to over 35 children! (At time of bulletin printing there were still approximately 70 more children in need of help.) If all tags are claimed from our tree we can always ask for more.

Thank you in advance for helping the children of our community!



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 <u>holycomforter@gmail.com</u>

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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager