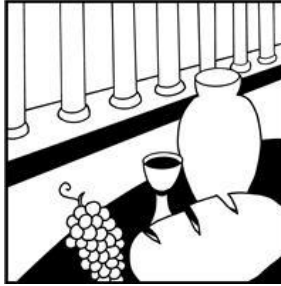


# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 15, 2021 •

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



**GATHERING:** *Minuett.* ..... Haydn

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Vivace.* ..... Haydn

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, in remembrance of baptism.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God, our provider,

**C help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Oh Worship the King*.....All Stand & Sing

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,  
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;  
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,  
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.  
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

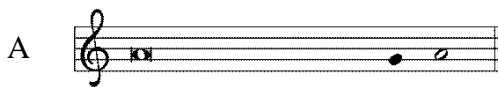
Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.  
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

## GREETING

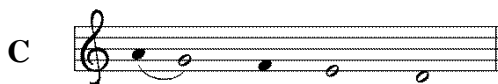
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

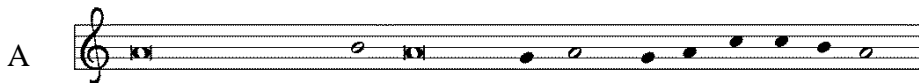
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



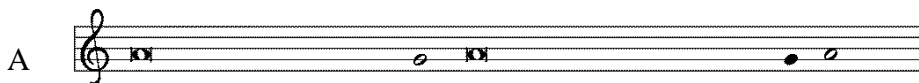
Lord, have mer - cy.



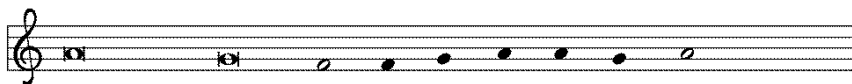
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



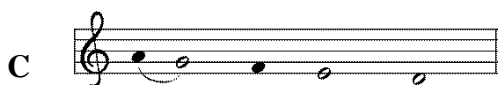
Lord, have mer - cy.



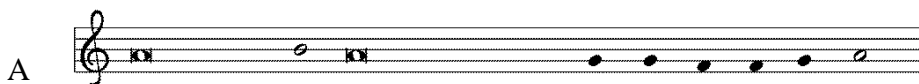
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



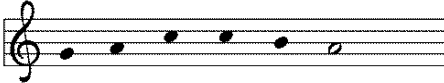
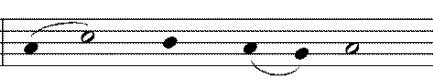
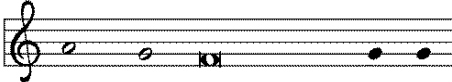

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
 <p>let us pray to the Lord.</p>	 <p>Lord have mer - cy.</p>
 <p>Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.</p>	
 <p>A - men.</p>	

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

<i>Refrain</i> Assisting minister	
 <p>This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.</p>	
<i>All</i> 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us	
	
	
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and	
	
	
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.	
	
	
<i>Refrain</i> This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.	
	
	

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## FIRST READING

**Proverbs 9:1-6**

A reading from Proverbs, the ninth chapter.

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food-insight and understanding-is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, <sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says, <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 5:15-20**

A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**John 6:51-58**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

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

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

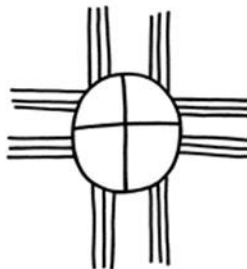
P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated.*

**SERMON** ..... Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing . . . . . All Stand & Sing*

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.  
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813



## 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of fires, floods, hurricanes, or tropical storms. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer (*especially*). God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this assembly. Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich worship and daily life. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.**

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

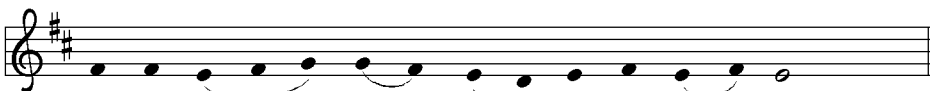
*Pastor*

*Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Pastor*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Cong.*

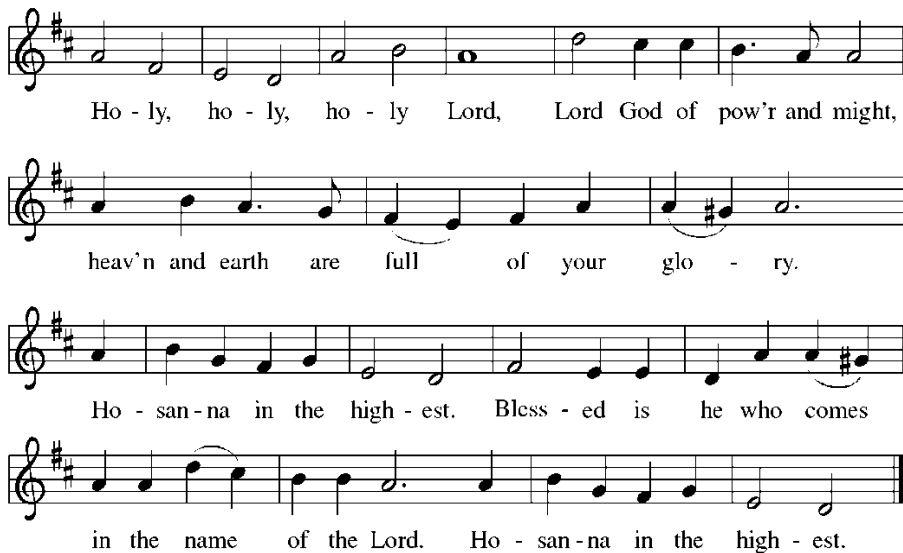


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

**C Thanks be to God.**



## COMMUNION

During communion we will be dismissed by rows, starting in the front. You will receive the elements from the table by the door, and take them to your car to eat. We will finish the worship liturgy and be dismissed there. You may stand outside your car or be seated inside. You should be able to hear the worship leader through your radio on 89.5 fm.

**LAMB OF GOD** ..... *All Sing*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**POSTLUDE:** *Hornpipe*. . . . . Handel

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Jesus, Bread of life,

C We have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

### **SENDING**

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

- 
- A special thanks to the musical leadership of guest organist Suzanne Fairbairn.
  - A special thanks to the musical leadership of our cantor, Greg Byrum.
  - A special thanks to our lector, Ashley Hyman.

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# Holy Doodles





**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse