# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 15, 2013

# The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** Come Holy Spirit, Enter In . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . J. C. 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, + one God: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

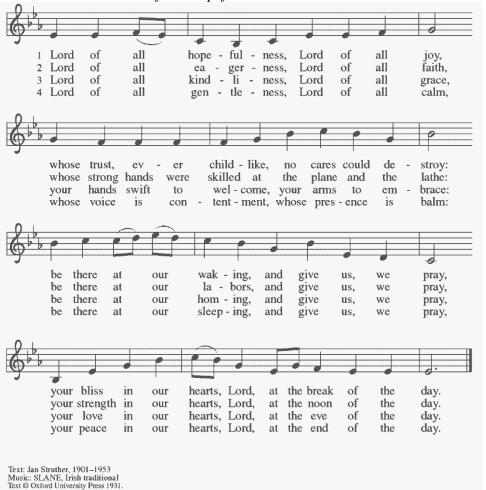
#### C Amen.

- P Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

  Silence is kept for reflection.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- P God of overflowing grace,
- C we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

**GATHERING SONG:** Lord of All Hopefulness . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing

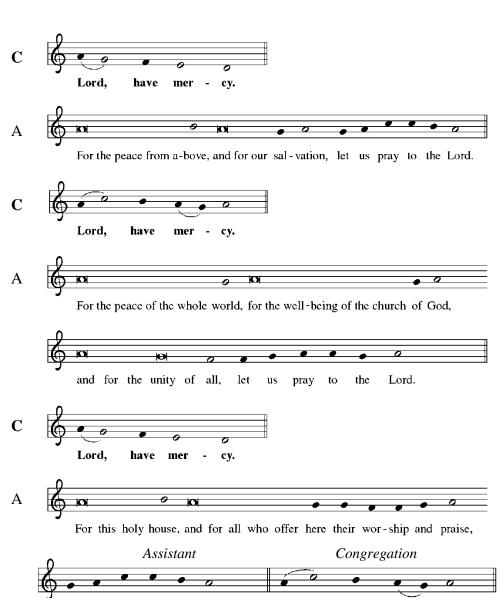


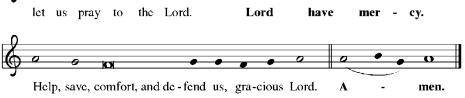
#### **GREETING**

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

#### **KYRIE**







### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





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



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*The assembly 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 Exodus 32:7–14

A reading from the thirty-second chapter of Exodus.

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks mercy for them.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people,

how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

"But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever." <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

#### SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Timothy.

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

#### **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL Luke 15:1–10

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninetynine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.



<sup>8</sup>Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *In Thee Is Gladness* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



## **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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

## A brief silence.

Holy God of reconciliation, pour out your mercy upon us when we stray to ways of sin and disobedience. Turn us back to you, and fulfill your righteous covenant. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shower the earth with abundant water, especially where there is drought and clean drinking water is scarce. Refresh all people with flowing rivers and springs. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit of forgiveness and renewal to all families, communities, and nations. Reconcile us to one another, as you have graciously reconciled us to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

<sup>\*</sup> catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

Seek out those who struggle on their own with illness and despair. Join yourself to them, bear their burdens, and lift them up to find hope and strength in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Accompany refugees, displaced persons, and all who wander without homes. Shelter them from all enemies. Give them stability through others sent to serve them. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Living God, your mercy transforms us. Speak to us through the lives of the saints, and use our lives to proclaim the healing power of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

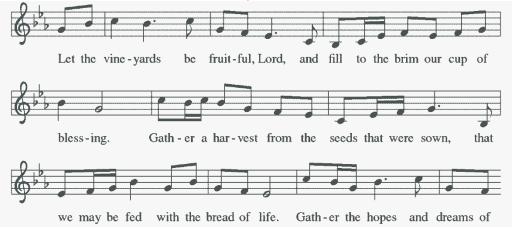
Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.** 

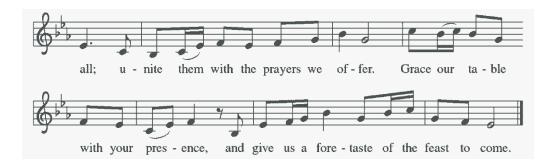
### **PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** Children of the Heavenly Father . . . . . . . . Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Let the Vineyards . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



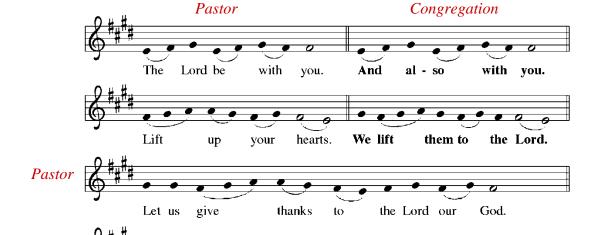


### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

**DIALOGUE** 

C Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.



#### **PREFACE**

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

right

It

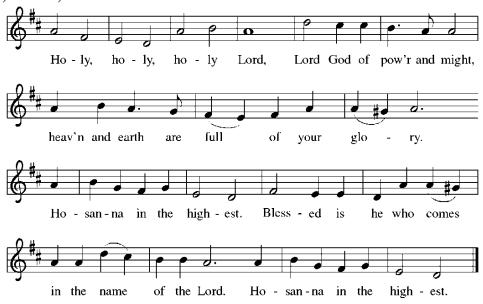
is

to give our

thanks and

praise.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Our Father, who art in heaven,

#### LORD'S PRAYER

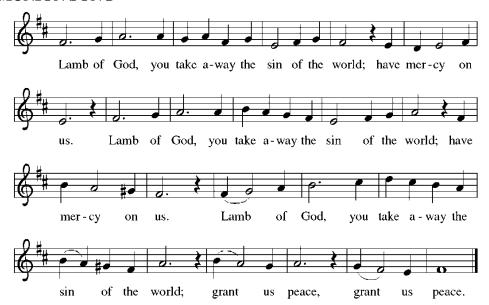
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

- P Take hold of the life that really is life. Come, take your place at the table.
- C Thanks be to God.



## **COMMUNION SONG**



#### **COMMUNION**

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

## **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:** Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us. . . . . . . All Sing



- The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his P grace.
- $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

#### SONG AFTER COMMUNION



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A We come again to you, O God,

C giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *I Love To Tell the Story* . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





#### **DISMISSAL**

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Seventeenth 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.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Fran Holland in honor of Dot Holland's birthday.

<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, September 8, 2013:

Attendance: 136

Budget Report	<u>September 8, 2013</u>
Current Offering Received 9/8/13	\$ 6,267.40
Budget Expenses, Month to date	\$ 8,056.08
Offering – Month to Date	\$ 9,915.40

The Current Offering Received for the year through September 8, 2013 is \$18,845.47 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr. + Julia Gunter **GREETERS:** The Causbys

ACOLYTES: Matthew Carr COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Ashton Nault Need Volunteers For September

CRUCIFERS: Madison Carr EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Nick Ashe Need Volunteers For September

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2) USHERS: Charles Mauney

Louise Day, Co-Captain + Volunteer/s

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Nancy Powell Becky Richards CANTOR: Gayla Foscue

### THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

## Today, Sunday, September 15

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 Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

## Tuesday, September 17

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Saturday, September 21 Staying Connected Meets to

Cook for the

Ronald McDonald House

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 15-21**

September 17 Bill Hollar

September 18 Winston Baker

Jayne Beasley

September 20 Diann Halvorson

Lyn Miller

Beverly Reynolds

Dan Wallace

September 21 Horace Bean

Dot Holland

## "Inquiring Hearts" SS class begins NEXT SUNDAY, Sept 22 - 9:30 am!

Taught by Pastor John, we'll look at: discipleship; Lutheran beliefs (Small Catechism, baptism, communion AND much more); Church Year; Mission & Ministry at Holy Comforter: AND much more! This 5-week series is for ANYONE (new to the Church, already a member, pondering membership!) Call if you think you'll be attending some or all of the classes ... 704-825-2483 or e-mail ... JohnCPropst@gmail.com

## Worship at Lutheridge + October 13 + 10:30 am + Whisnant Chapel

See the fall mountain colors + lunch after worship in the Lineberger Dining Hall (DONATIONS accepted for lunch!) + Vans available from HolyC! + a service WILL be held at HolyC for those not going to Lutheridge + BE SURE TO SIGN THE PAD, so we'll have an idea on how many to expect + Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! There will be NO Sunday School for the children on this Sunday.

Contact Greg Cline or Pastor John if you have questions.



## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Virginia P. Crump Daniel Dowd Ferrie Hedrick Richard Holden Zac Hullander Lee Ireland Chase Lineberger Liz Propst

### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Joyce Davis
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Ms. Frankie Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Dot Hollar

Betty Fox

Brenda Jenkins
Betty Kannapel
Ruth Lail
Sandra Nix
Paul Outlaw
Jean Peters
Taylor Propst & Family
Mara Rappleyea
Steve Sanford

Ramona J. Sinclair Rose Strait Jimmy Surratt Buck Weatherford Junior Westmorland Beverly F. Wall Gloria Ward



## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

Jeremy Shaver

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 sheets are located in the narthex.

## **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 Greg Cline, Organist/Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education Director Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

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