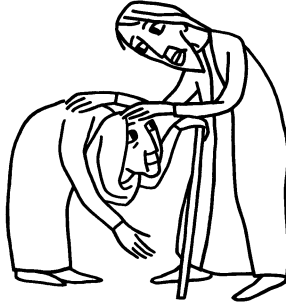


# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 16th, 2022 •

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



## WELCOME/ GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Fanfare*

Helman

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C Amen.**

P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

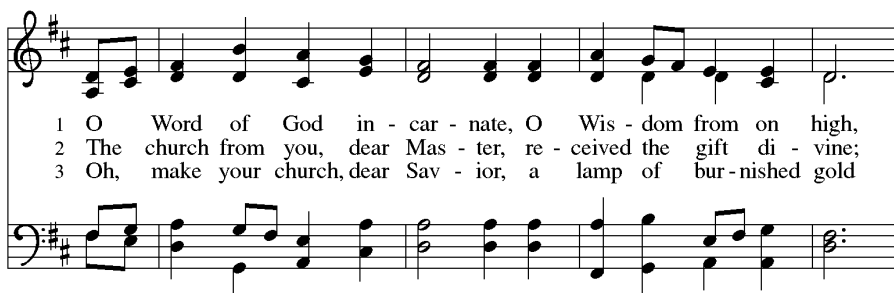
**Amen.**

P Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ☩ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

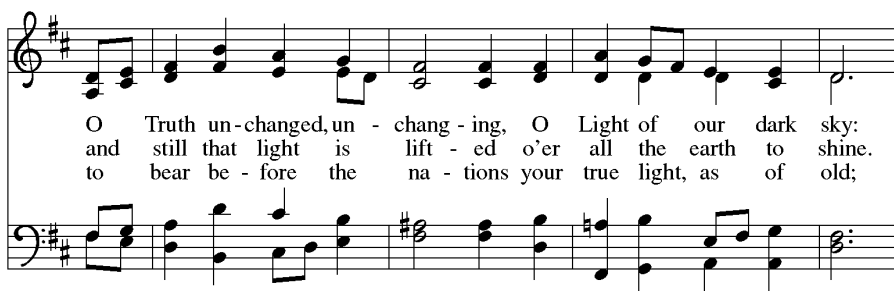
**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *O Word of God Incarnate*

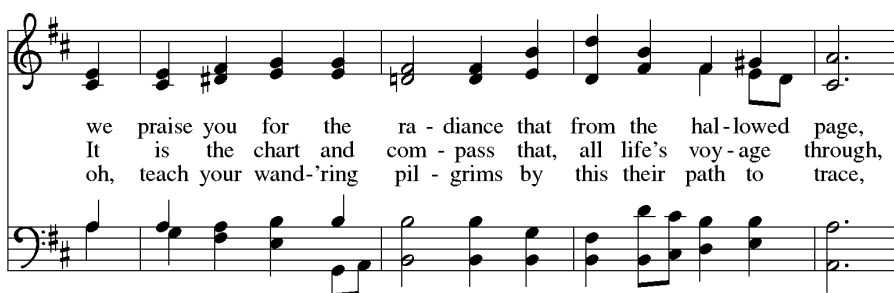
*All Stand & Sing*



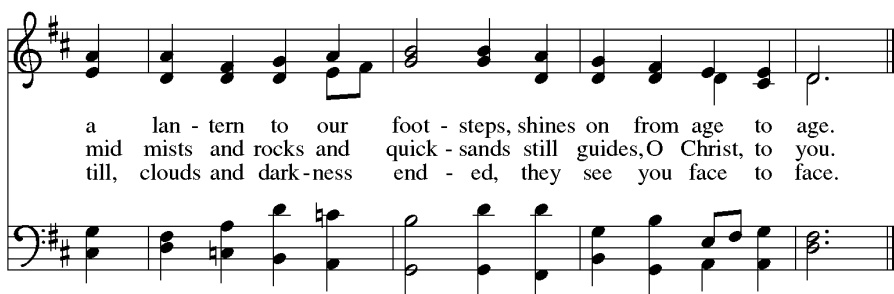
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

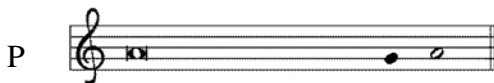
Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.  
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## 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.

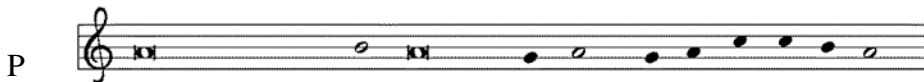
## KYRIE



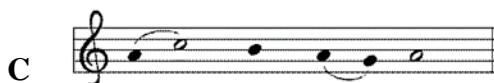
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



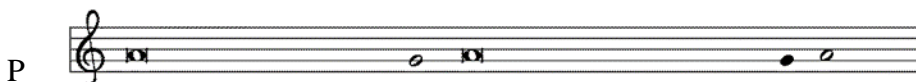
Lord, have mer - cy.



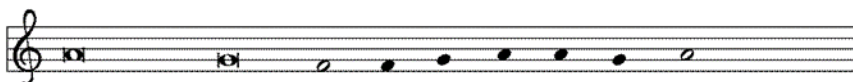
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



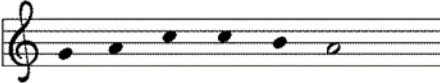



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

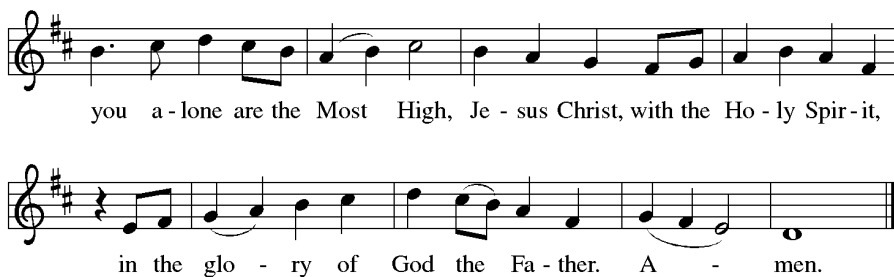


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

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

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

|  |
|--|
| <p><small>Assisting minister</small></p>  <p>Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.</p> |
| <p><small>All</small></p>  <p>Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we</p>                      |
|  <p>wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.</p>   |
|  <p>Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,</p>                                      |
|  <p>you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;</p>  |
|  <p>you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.</p>                                   |
|  <p>For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,</p>   |



## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 32:22-31**

A reading from Genesis, the thirty-second chapter.

*Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."*

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let

you go, unless you bless me.” <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

A reading from second Timothy, the third and fourth chapters.

*The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

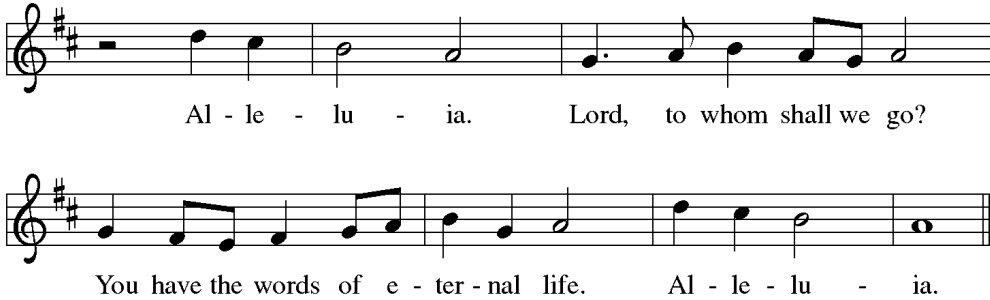
<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Luke 18:1-8**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

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

*Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**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: *Rise Up, O Saints of God*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

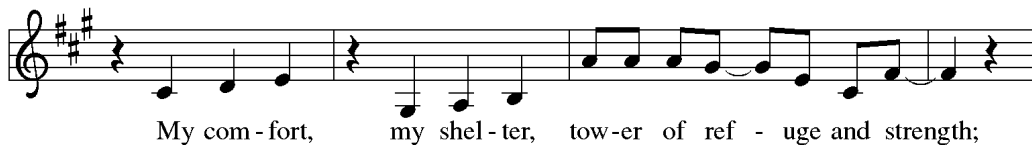
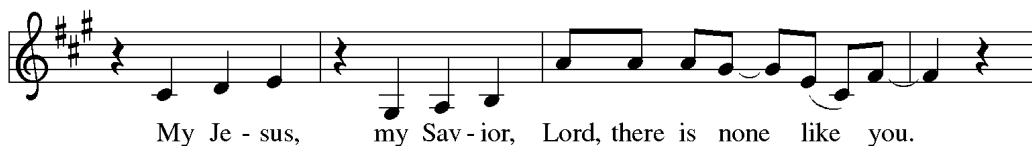
**C** And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Glorious Things*

Handbell Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Shout to the Lord*

*All Stand & Sing*



to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the  
 sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
 for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.  
 Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP).

c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**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.*

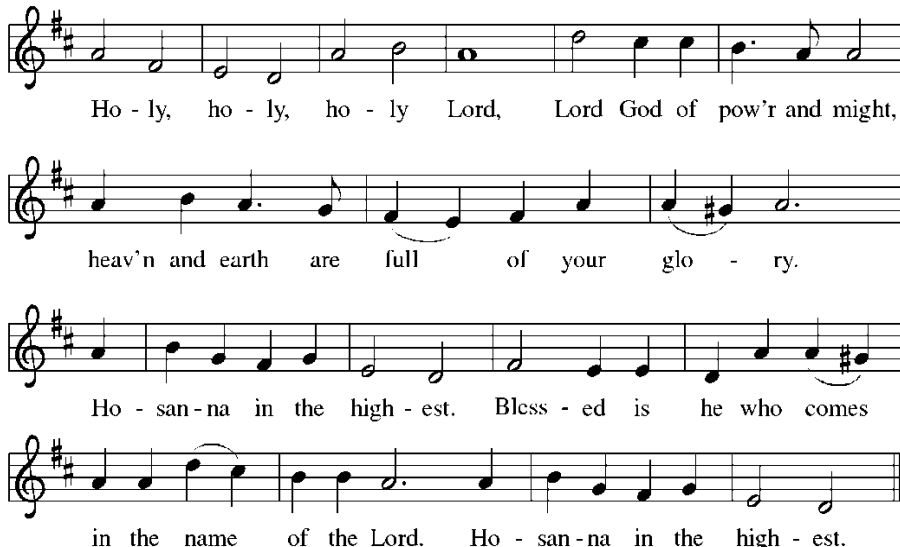


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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 invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

C Thanks be to God.

## COMMUNION

*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

## 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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *I Received the Living God*

*All Sing*

*Refrain*



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;  
2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;  
3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.  
4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



*Refrain*

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous

Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

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

**C** Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** God of the abundant table,

**C** you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

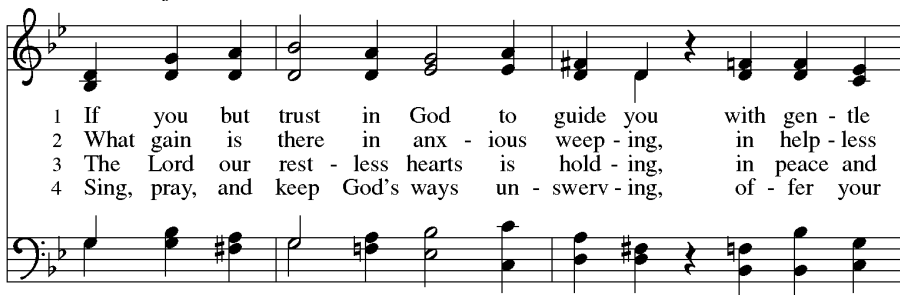
## BLESSING

**P** God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**C** Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

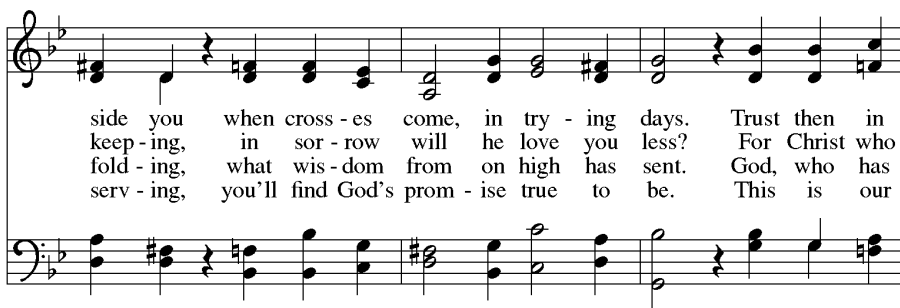
*All Stand & Sing*



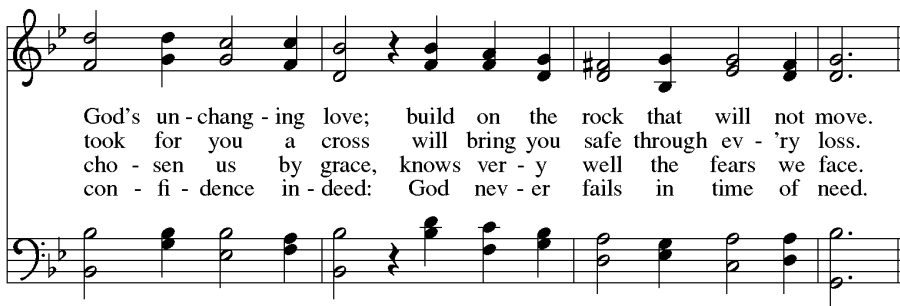
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



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, with Christ beside you.

C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Let All Together Praise Our God*

J.S Bach

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\*Special thank you to our Lector, Julia Gunter

\*\* The altar flowers were given in honor of Carson Potter's and Taylor Gross' birthdays  
by Rochelle and Danny Potter.

### **Sunday, October 16th**

9:30 am - Sunday School

9:55 am - Handbell Choir in balcony

10:10 am - Church Choir in balcony

10:30 am - Worship in the Sanctuary

5:00 pm - Handbell practice

- HCY meets

6:00 pm - Choir practice

### **Monday, October 17th**

7:00 pm - Book Club Meets (in person and on Zoom)

### **Tuesday, October 18th**

7:00 pm - Nar-Anon

- Christian Ed Meeting

### **Wednesday, October 19th**

4:00 pm - Faith Formation Video posted

6:45 pm - Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm - Chamber Choir



**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483  
[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