

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 17, 2021 •

## The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



**GATHERING:**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Sometimes Our Only Song* .....Chamber Choir

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God our comforter:

**C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord.....All Stand & Sing*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind  
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,  
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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## PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

*The assembly is seated.*

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.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

As you bring Raylan and Amelia to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that your children 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 Raylan and Amelia grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Raylan and Amelia and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

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

*Response:*

I renounce them.

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

*Response:*

I renounce them.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\* and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Blessed be God, the source of all life,  
the word of salvation,  
the spirit of mercy.**

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.

Sustain \_\_\_\_\_ 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.**

\_\_\_\_\_, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

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

## **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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 53:4-12**

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-third chapter.

*This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called “servant songs.” Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant’s healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.*

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## Hebrews 5:1-10

A reading from Hebrews, the fifth chapter.

*Using imagery from scripture and from Jewish worship practices, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who was obedient to God's saving plan. Through his suffering and death he has become the source of eternal salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; <sup>3</sup>and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. <sup>4</sup>And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL

**Mark 10:35-45**

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

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

*On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service.*

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” <sup>39</sup>They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus

called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Congregation is seated.*

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

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

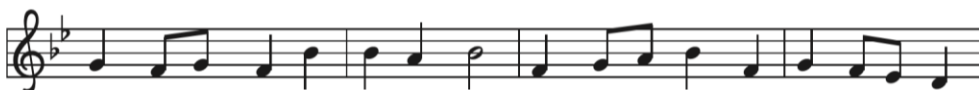
**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Making Their Way* ..... *All Stand & Sing*



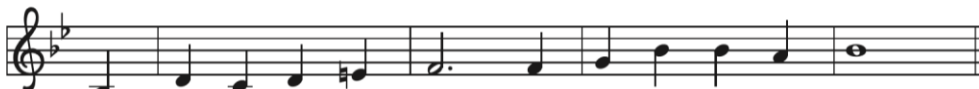
1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,  
 learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
 car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.  
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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## **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**

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that all living things flourish as you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, dementia, or any illness (*especially*), that all may be healed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage greeters, lectors, counters, committee and group leaders, teachers, students, evangelists, choir members, nurturers, and all who serve with generous hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Risen One, we thank you for those who have shaped your church and shared your gospel. Through the witness of your saints, continue to inspire us with hope until we all are gathered at your eternal feast. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

**C** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *O Lord, You Know Me Completely.* . . . . . Church Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

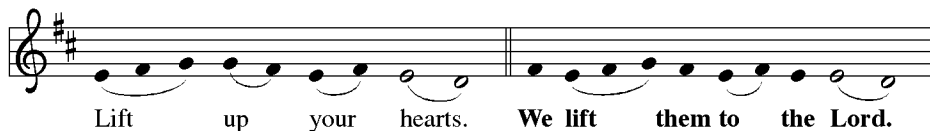
**A** Let us pray.

**C** God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

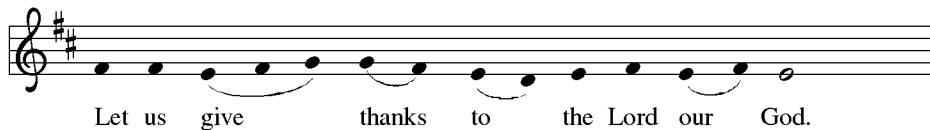
## DIALOGUE

*Pastor*

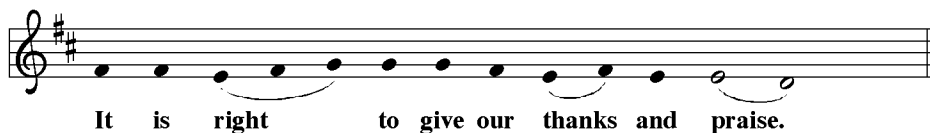
*Congregation*



*Pastor*



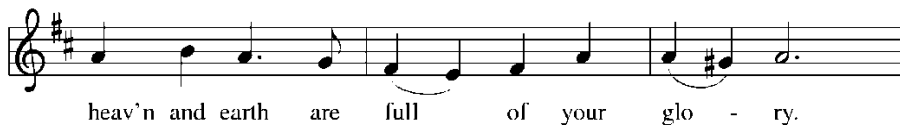
*Cong.*



## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## 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** All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**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: *Praeludium and Fugue in G min.* ..... J.S. Bach

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

C Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Lord of life,

C in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

P People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING

P Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C Thanks be to God.

\*Altar flowers are given by Susan Nelson in memory of their son, Charles Nelson.

\*Special thanks to our lector, Jo Singleton.

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# Holy Doodles



**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster



