

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 18, 2018 •

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



By Richard Holden

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Mercy* Telemann

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Merciful God,

C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* All Stand & Sing

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

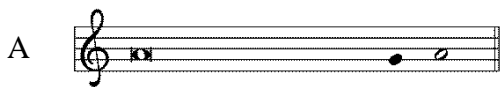
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

GREETING

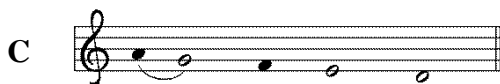
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

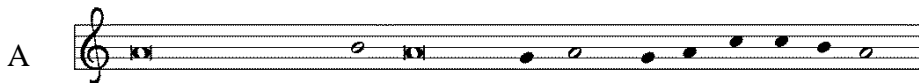
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



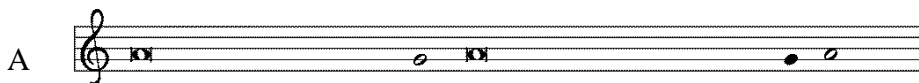
Lord, have mer - cy.



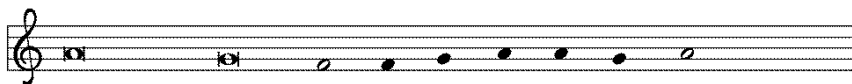
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



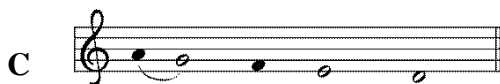
Lord, have mer - cy.



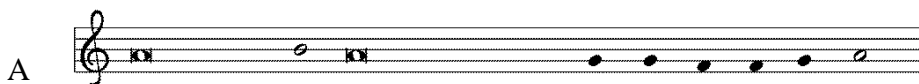
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



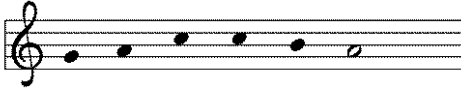
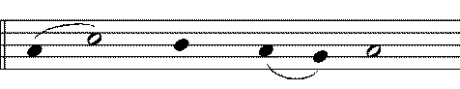
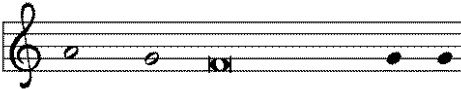

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

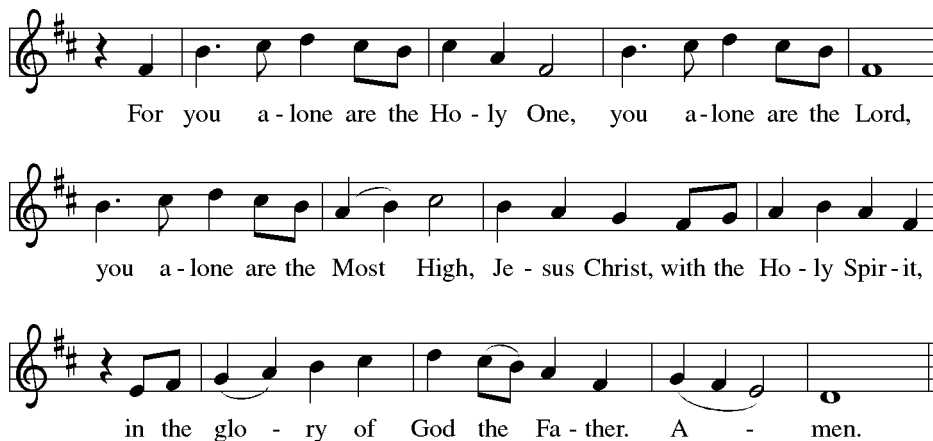


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

<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>

GLORIA

<p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 0;"><i>Assisting minister</i></p>  <p>Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 0;"><i>All</i></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>



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is seated and 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 nurseries**.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from the fifth chapter of Hebrews.

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ 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”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

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

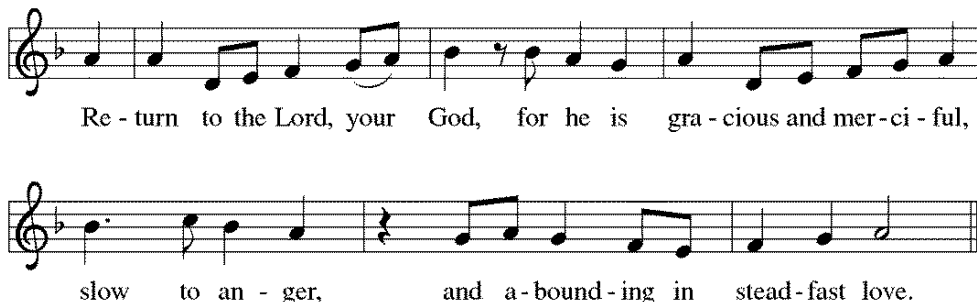
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of

his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having 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 VERSE



GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

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

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

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify



your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Restore in Us, O God* All Stand & Sing



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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

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



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



OFFERING PRAYER

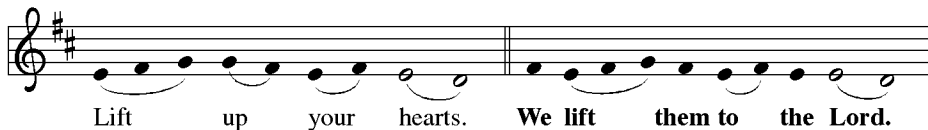
A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

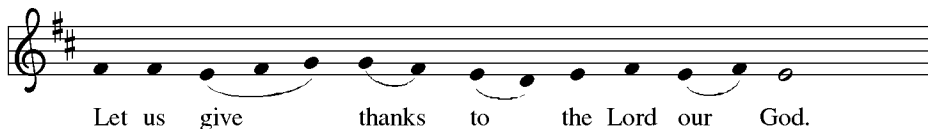
DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation



Pastor



Cong.

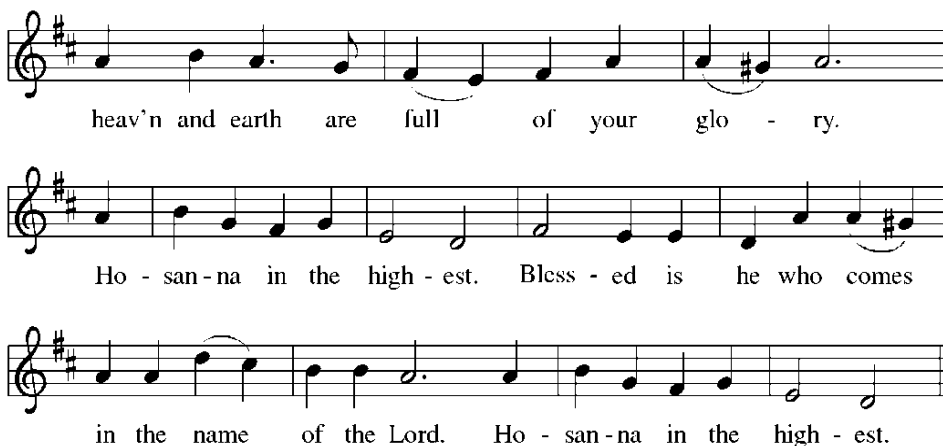


PREFACE

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.

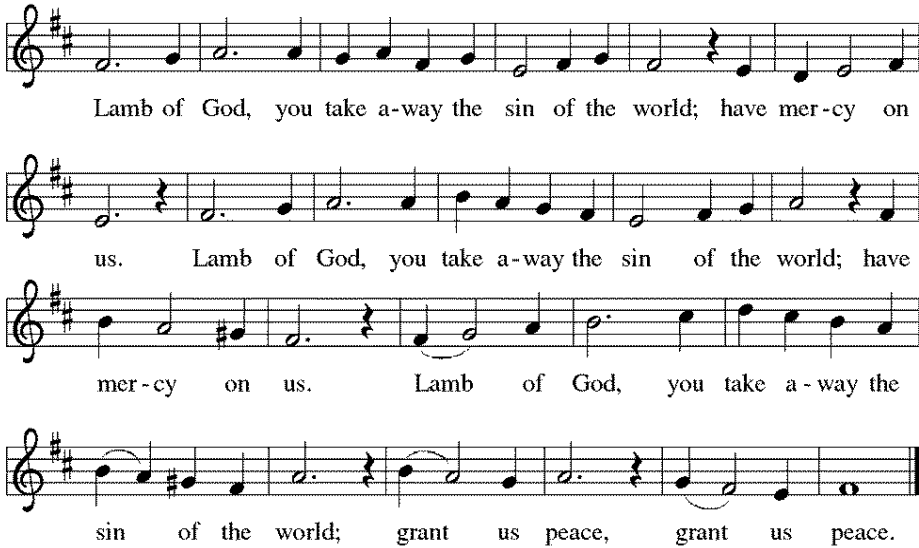
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



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.



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: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* All Sing



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray,

C Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* All Stand & Sing



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

SENDING

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Fifth Sunday in Lent**. 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. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: 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.**

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 11, 2018:

Attendance: 110

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>March 11, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 6,025.00	\$ 53,779.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 59,913.76
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 473.83</u>	<u>(\$ 134.73)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>56,833.44</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 3,054.41)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Pat Long**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

TELLERS: Tim & Shelia Kelly**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Carmen Buell, Captain

Dean & Diann Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Brandy Milton

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Lauren Shoemaker

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by the Tench family in honor of Sarah & Joey Helms' wedding.

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

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music Committee

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 18-24

March 20 Mike Wesson

March 21 Riley Fleming

March 24 Mollie Caldwell

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, March 18**

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion
2:00 pm Confirmation in Dallas
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesday, March 21

5:00 pm Handbell Class (kids)
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
6:45 pm *Holden Evening Prayer*
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

**Tuesday, March 20**

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets
Nar-Anon

BCO March Items of the Month



Dried Beans & Rice



Music Week at Lutheridge, July 8-14, is open for registration. Grade 1 - Adult scholarships are available to Holy C members. See Greg Cline.

The 29th Annual Holy Comforter *Isle of Palms Retreat*

will be Memorial Day weekend,

Thursday, May 24 through Monday, May 28th, 2018.

Signup at the church. Contact Veronica Bryant or Mandi Kline for details.

Cost: \$99 per room per night with a minimum of 2 nights.

Make checks payable to Holy Comforter (due by Easter Sunday)



Attendance March 11, 2018

	Adults	Kids
Pre-K		6
Upper & Lower Elementary		6
Seekers	4	
Senior Adults	7	
Totals:	11	12



Easter Egg Hunt + Lunch

Saturday, March 31 – 10:00 am at Holy Comforter

Ages Preschool – 5th grade are invited to attend.



Pre-school egg hunts & Elementary school age hunts provided.

We are collecting empty plastic Easter eggs to be used for the hunt.

Also, donations of Easter prepackaged candy will be appreciated.

All donations can be left in the fellowship hall or brought to Beka's office.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
John McDermid

Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

Please remember these people in your prayers.
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

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



Holy Doodles



Please place your **Easter Lily Order** by filling in the form below. You may then return the form to the church office or place in the offering plate. **All orders must be accompanied by payment at time of order so that we can keep a proper accounting of your gifts and reduce the possibilities of errors.** Please PRINT CLEARLY your name and the name of person/persons you are *honoring* or placing the Easter lilies *in memory of*.

The cost of each lily is \$15.00. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 25, 2018.



Easter Lily Order Form

Your Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Number of lilies ordered: _____

☐ In Honor Of: _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____

☐ To The Glory of God: _____

☐ Paid Check

☐ Paid Cash

☐ Mailed Payment



**Chicken Plate Fundraiser
for *Mission AFRICA***

**\$8 donation for a plate that includes:
½ chicken, red slaw, chips, bread & dessert**

Contact Shelia Kelly by March 21 to place your order.
Make checks payable to ***Great Awakening.***



Donations of homemade un-iced pound cake, brownies and/or cookies
will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Shelia at 704-718-6161 by March 21
to inform her if you can donate a dessert.

Shelia Kelly will be leaving for Zambia, Africa on April 25th to participate in the
mission work began by Pastor Tom Cheshire over fifteen years ago.

The chicken plate fundraiser is to help in this ministry.

The funds raised will be used to install doors, windows, bathrooms and flooring in
the church/school building that was built by this mission.

Also included will be four feeding programs, men & women Bible conferences,
daily revival meetings as well as speaking at public schools
plus, various village ministries.

Thank you for your support!



The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.
There are 108 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!
For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.

In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston. Below, meet Emily Koehler:



Hi, my name is Emily and I am 13 years old. I am in 8th grade at Belmont Middle School. I have been a member of Holy Comforter my whole life. My hobbies include tennis, painting, and reading. I am looking forward to our Youth Gathering in June. I am excited to meet other people my age from all over the country that have the same beliefs as me. I look forward to helping the Houston community through multiple service projects. I'm sure we are going to have lots of fun.



BIG NEWS!

We are hosting a Yard Sale as a Fundraiser for Houston!!!

You can bring by the things you wish to donate to our yard sale. We ask that you put them ***UPSTAIRS in the baby nursery.***

If you have large items to donate, we ask that you wait until after Easter to drop them off.

Our yard sale will be held on April 14th from 7 am till 12 pm.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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

holycomforter@gmail.com

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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager