

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 3, 2015

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Charles Austin
Guest Organist

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Christ Lay in the bonds of Death* Johann Sebastian Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful and just God,

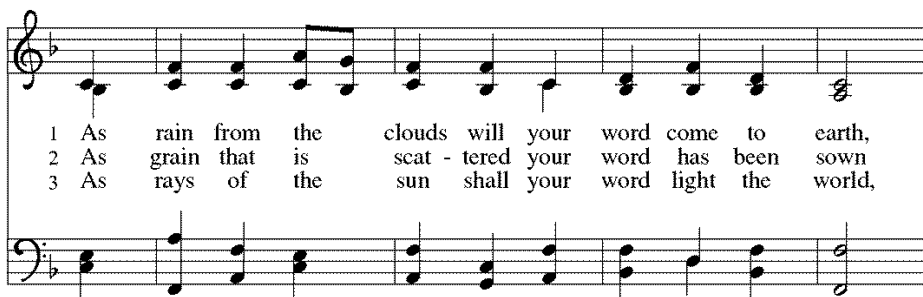
C we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

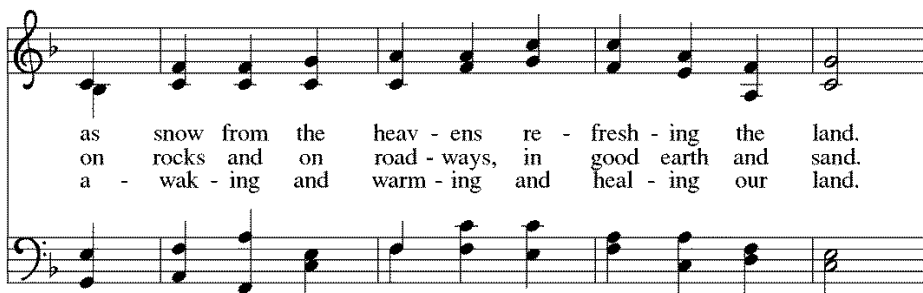
P In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C Amen.

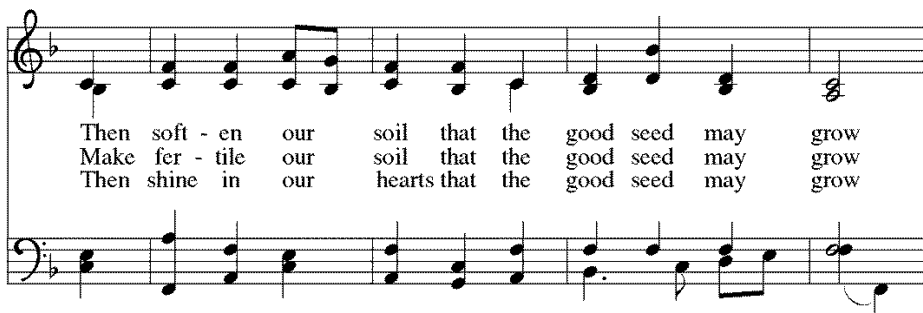
GATHERING SONG: *As Rain From the Clouds* All Stand & Sing



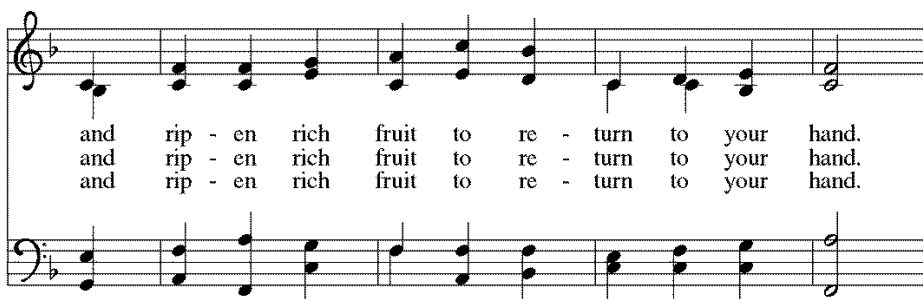
1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.

We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,

for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osp, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896; arr. hymnal version

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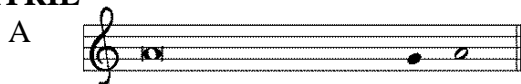
Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

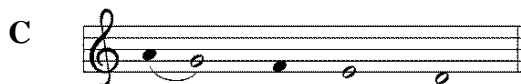
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

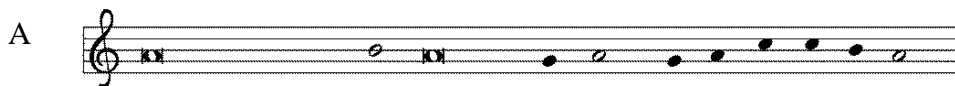
KYRIE



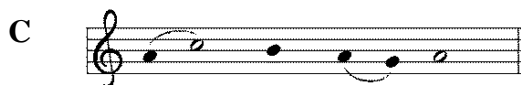
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



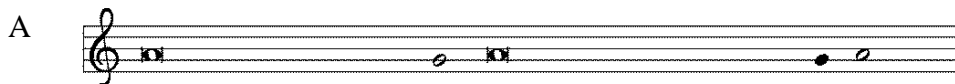
Lord, have mer - cy.



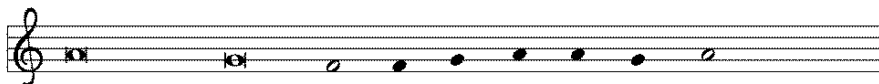
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



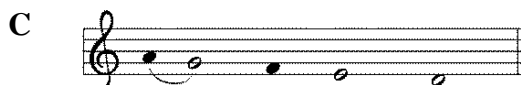
Lord, have mer - cy.



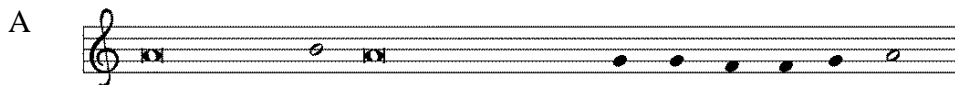
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



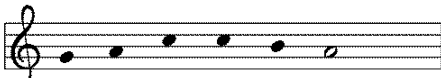
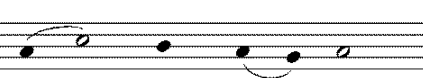
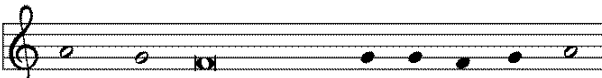

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

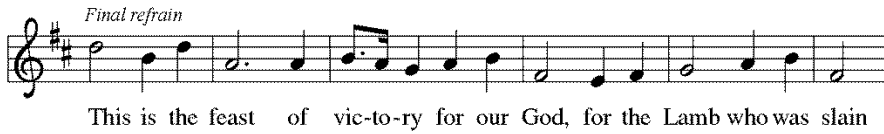


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

<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>	
 <p>1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us</p>	
 <p>free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and</p>	
 <p>strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.</p>	
<i>Refrain</i>	
 <p>This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.</p>	
 <p>2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the</p>	
 <p>hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and</p>	



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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 nursery**.

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and

went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7–21

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 John.

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one

another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

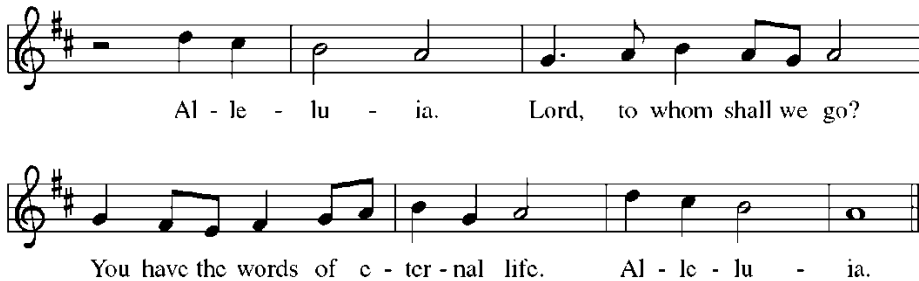
¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

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

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as

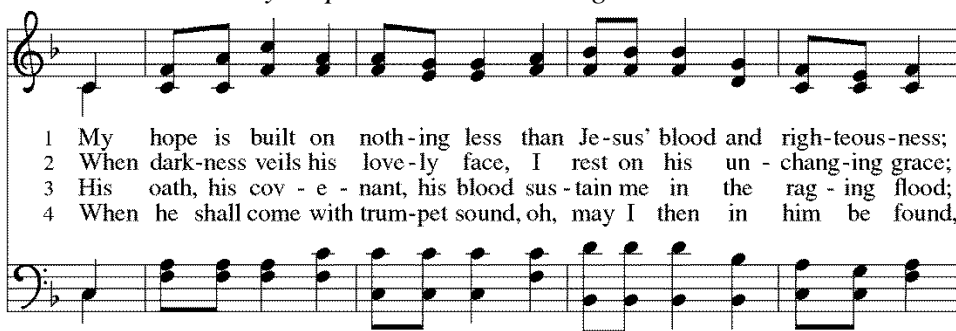
I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P The gospel of the Lord.

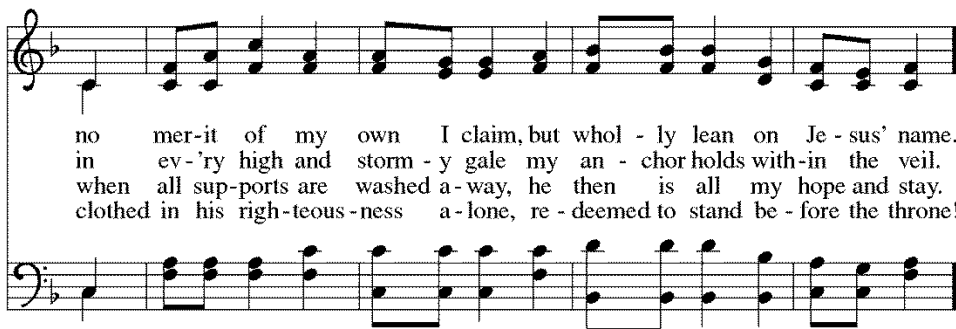
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* All Stand & Sing



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the mission of the church throughout the world, that all be led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news that God is love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For plants and animals, for clean water and air, for favorable weather, and for the whole of creation, that you guide us to serve as good stewards of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For judges, lawyers, and all court officials, for the leaders of government, and for all who seek justice in this world, that all be treated with fairness and equity, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are poor, hungry, bereaved, distressed, and sick (*especially*), and for those who provide care and comfort, that all find assurance of God's unending love for them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who yearn for meaning and community with others, that the Holy Spirit lead them to mentors in the faith; for those visiting this congregation; and for those who are away with family and friends, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the confessors of the faith in past generations, especially those who have died in the Lord, that they inspire future generations to proclaim the gospel, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

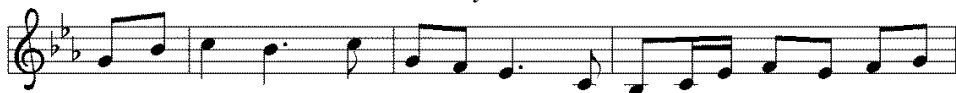
PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

ORGAN OFFERTORY: *Christ Is Risen Again* Heinrich Bach

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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

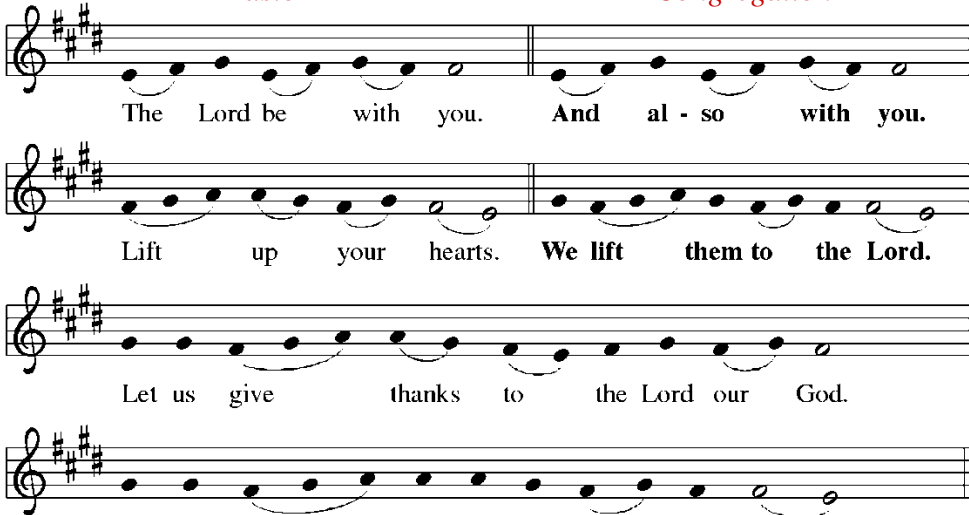
OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor *Congregation*

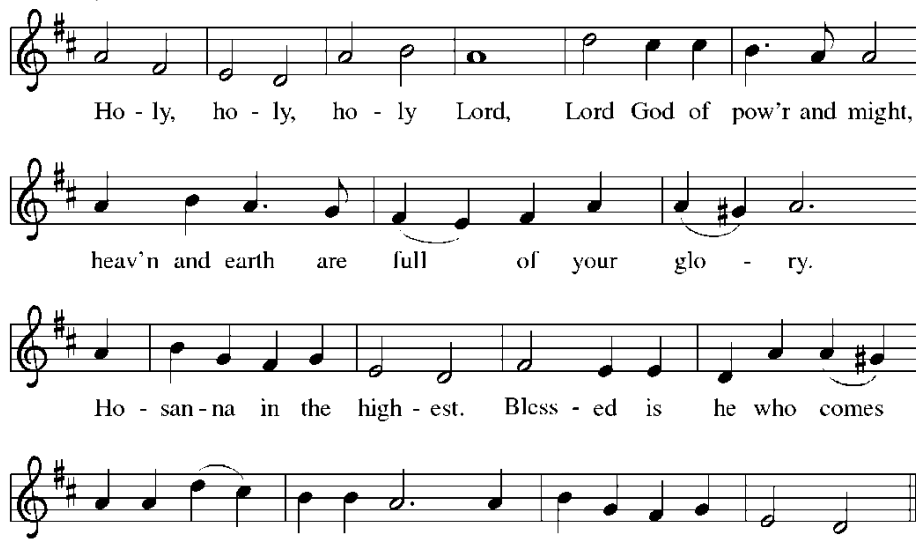


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Cong. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

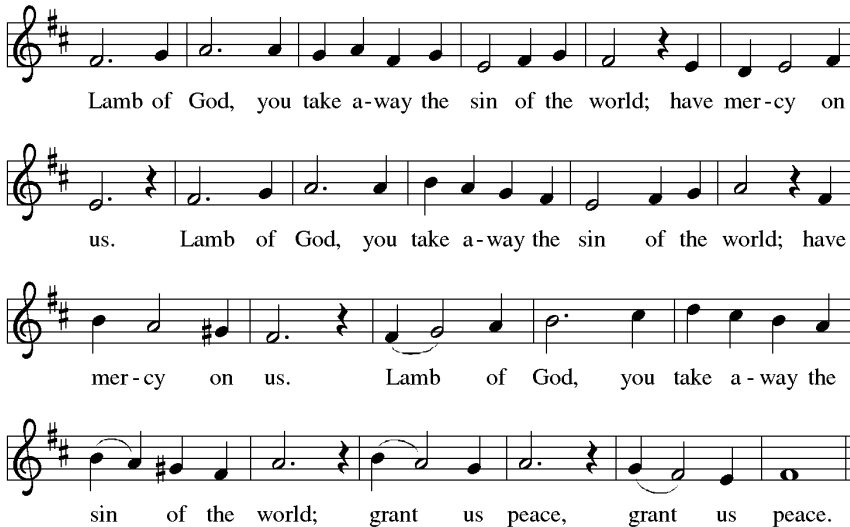
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."
C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION SONG

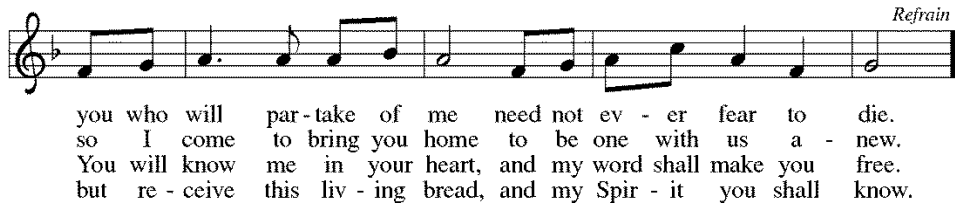
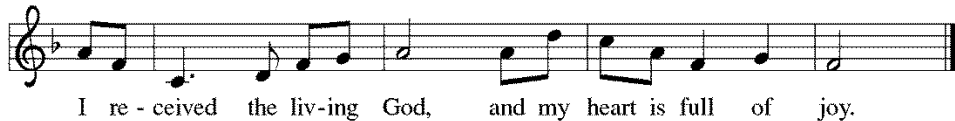


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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: *I Received the Living God* All Sing



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.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



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

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Life-giving God,

C we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

C Amen.

P Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

C Amen.

P God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Lord, Dismiss Us* All Stand & Sing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end of the third system.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *God of Grace and God of Glory* Paul Manz

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fifth Sunday of Easter**. 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.

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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke Via in honor of Alec Via's birthday; and by the Bocchino Family in honor of Tom & Lucy's birthdays.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 26, 2015:

Attendance: 180

Budget Report

April 26, 2015

Current Offering Received 4/26/2015	\$ 4,324.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 79,491.86
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 7,163.56
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 7,242.34

HCY will meet Sunday, May 10 from 5-7 pm.

Weather permitting, there will be a scavenger hunt downtown Belmont (with cool prizes), followed by Bible Study and dinner.

Since it is Mother's Day invite your mom. Friends are always welcome.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr.**GREETER:** Debbie Neagle**ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER:** Need Volunteers**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Brandy Milton + Helper

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Misty Koehler

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean Susan Woodcock

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team B)

Fran Holland Charles Mauney

+ Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Ashley & Tyler Ange

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 3-9

Today, May 3 Sonja Kreitzer

May 4 Dariel Rogers

May 5 Tom Bocchino

May 7 Dianne Lail

Alec Via

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, May 3**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 61:00 pm Morning Circle meets
at the church**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**P.O. Box 666 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 pmMicah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Bill & Pauline Joye
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Mark Reese

Beverly Reynolds
George Roberson
Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
Jo Anne de la Vega
J. Don Devine
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family

Brian Hedrick
Eric Herdan
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Ramesh Patel
Jean Peters
Beverly Howe Poag

Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Julio Quiros
Anna Rudder
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Janie Thompson
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer

Alex Norris

Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

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