# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 •

Third Sunday of Easter



### WELCOME/ GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** Let All Together Praise Our God Manz

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

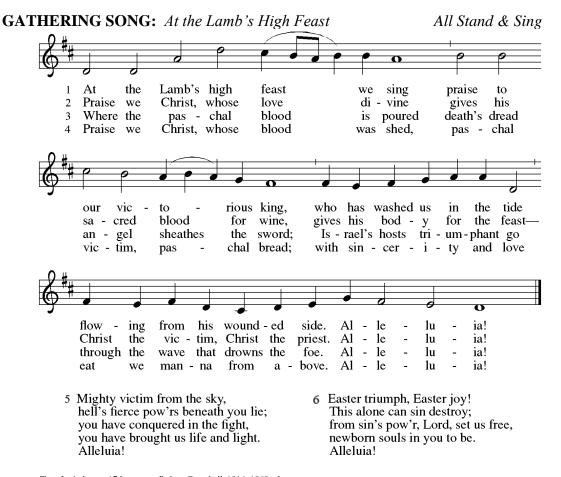
### C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

- P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.
- C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
- P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

### C Amen.



Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt. Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

#### 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.

### PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

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.

The presiding minister addresses parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Mackenzie Jane Howard baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring Mackenzie to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that Mackenzie 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 Mackenzie grow in the Christian faith and life? *Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:* 

People of God, do you promise to support Mackenzie by praying for her in her new life in Christ?

C 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.

- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples,

baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

### **BAPTISM**

- P Mackenzie Jane Howard, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.
- P Sustain Mackenzie 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.

C Amen.

P Mackenzie Jane Howard, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

#### WELCOME

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

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God creative and redeeming word to all the world.

### **SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING Acts 2:14a, 36-41

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>36</sup>"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from First Peter, the first chapter.

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things

like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

# C Glory to you, O Lord.

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still,

looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

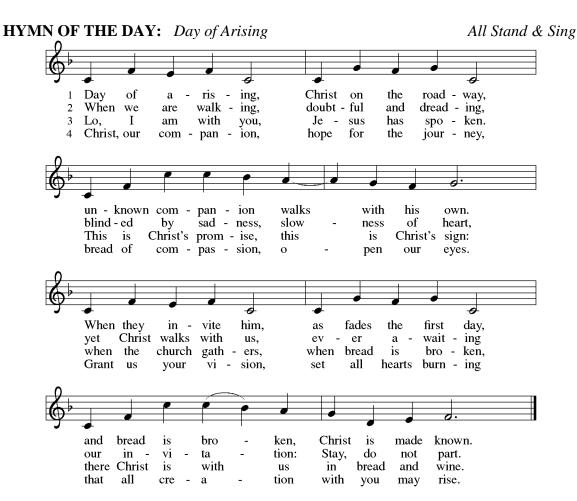
<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Congregation is seated.

**SERMON** Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

### A brief silence.

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Enrich Mackenzie with love for others as she grows in faith towards you and service to your world. Hear us, O God.

### Your mercy is great.

Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who horde resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized and whose stories go unheard or are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

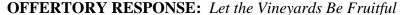
### Amen.

#### PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love Handbell Choir



All Stand & Sing



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

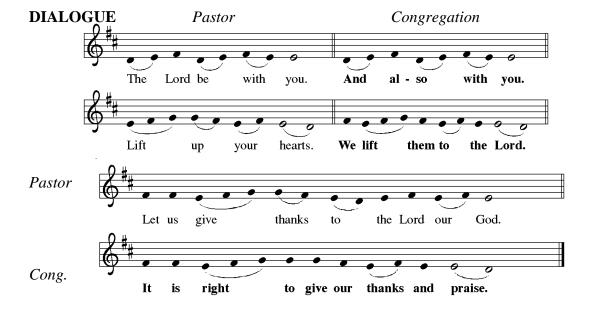
Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

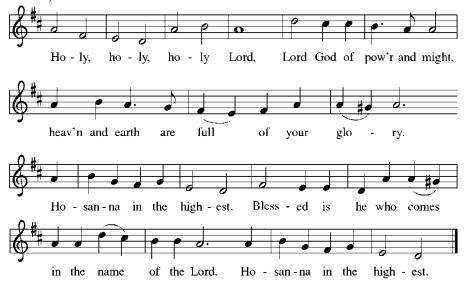
C Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

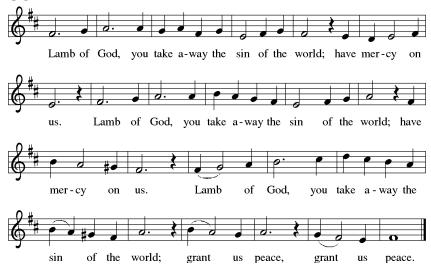
C Thanks be to God.

### **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.

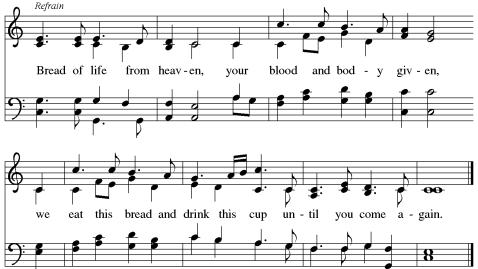
LAMB OF GOD

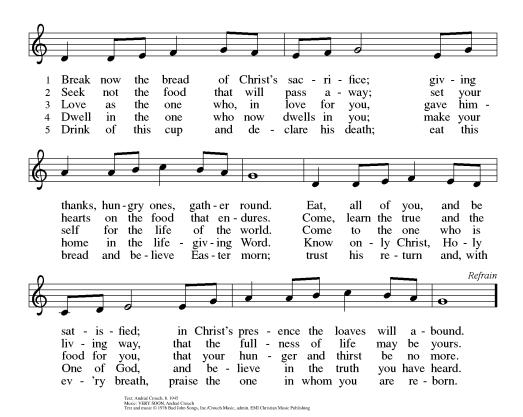
All Sing





All Sing





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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Let us pray,
- C Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### BLESSING

- P The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.
- C Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** Rise, O Church

All Stand & Sing

- Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace; may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.
   Alleluia, alleluia;
   God, the wonder of our days.
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole; broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.
  Alleluia, alleluia;
  Christ, our present, past, and goal.
- 3 Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive; present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.
  Alleluia, alleluia;
  Spirit, grace by whom we live.
- 4 Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath; mercy be our destination from this day and unto death. Alleluia, alleluia. Rise, O church, a living faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### **SENDING**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** Trumpet Tune

Callahan

# Sunday, April 23rd

9:30 am – Adult Handbells

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am - Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

5:00 pm - HYC

6:00 pm – Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 25th

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm – Adult Faith Formation Video

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

<sup>\*</sup>Special thank you to our Lector, Ashley Hyman.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The altar flowers were given by Will and Katie Howard, and Jane and Jeff Howard in celebration of the baptism of Mackenzie Jane Howard.