Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 12, 2017

The Second Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P In the name of the Father, and of the ± Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

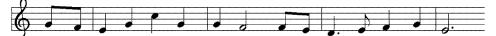
GATHERING SONG: We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus All Stand & Sing



- 1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je sus, we are bap-tized in his death;
- 2 In the wa-ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
- 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life. in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead, glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his, God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past; as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



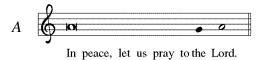
Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

GREETING

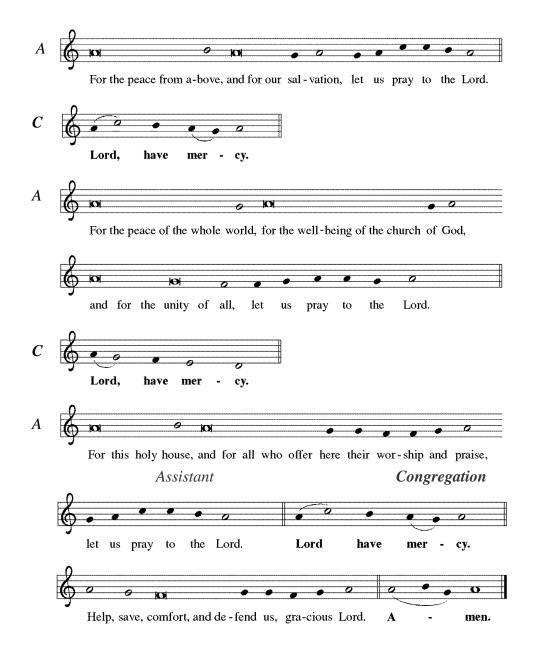
P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE







SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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.

The assembly is seated.

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 Genesis 12:1–4a

A reading from the twelfth chapter of Genesis.

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

GOSPEL VERSE





GOSPEL John 3:1-17

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

do not understand these things?

SERMON: Pastor Micah



Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt. Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth's families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. (*We pray especially for* . . .) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light. Let their lives be guides to our own. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: For by Grace You Have Been Saved . . All Stand & Sing



- 1 For by grace you have been saved and e-ven faith is not your
- 2 "So my grace is all-suf-fi-cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak-ness with con-tent-ment I'll ac-cept now in my-



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my-



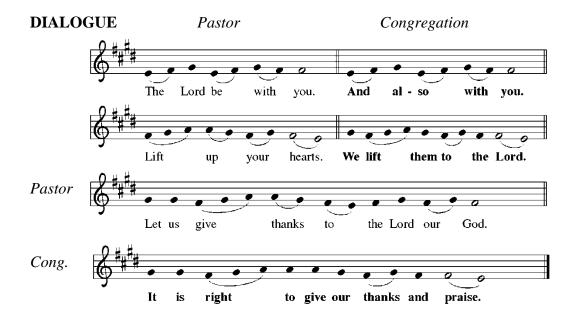


Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

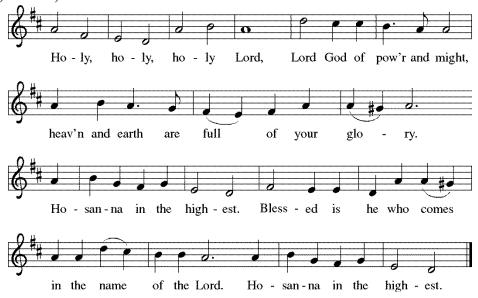
C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

LORD'S PRAYER

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 thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

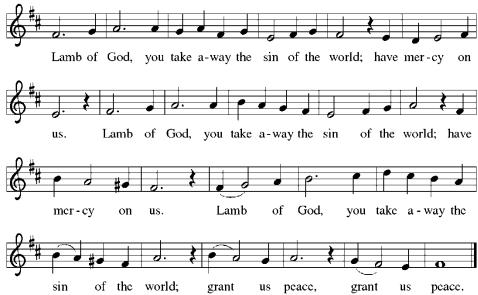




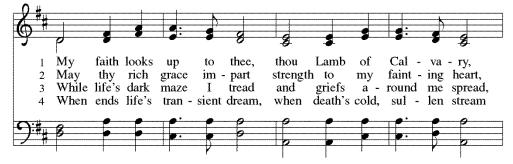
COMMUNION

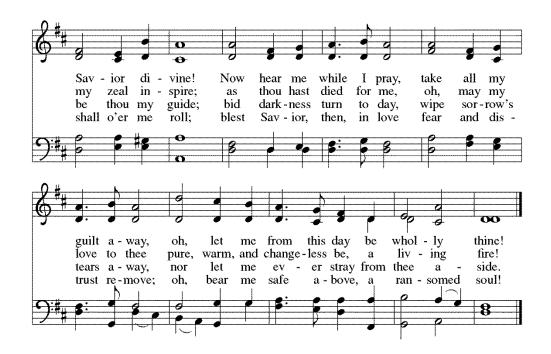
A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION SONG



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: My Faith Looks Up to Thee All Sing





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: *If You But Trust In God to Guide You* All Stand & Sing



Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark Text © 1978. 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Second Sunday** of 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 located 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 online form at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in honor of Arden De Nicholas' birthday; and by Elliott, Kristen & Piper Williams in honor of Veronica Bryant's birthday.

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

Offering and Attendance Report for March 5, 2017:

Attendance: 127

Budget Report	March 5, 2017
Current Offering Received	\$ 6,193.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,656.42
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 53,087.59
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ (749.16)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 36.02

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Volunteer

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: GREETER: Carmen Buell

Volunteers

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Infants: Volunteer
Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains Toddlers: Volunteer
Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: USHERS: Volunteers

Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 12-18

Today, March 12 Veronica Bryant
Arden De Nicholas

March 13 Raini Kimball

March 14 Tyler Ange Tracey Nault Nancy Powell

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, March 12

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Worship Service w/HC

Children's Ensemble after the Service (with Church Choir)

2:30 pm LR Choir arrives for afternoon

rehearsal

7:00 pm LRU Choir & Brass Ensemble

Celebrating 500 years of

Protestantism

Following the program the host families will greet their guests.

Monday, March 13

7:00-9:00 am LRU Choir families Student Return

Tuesday, March 14

6:00 pm Stewardship Committee

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, March 15

6:00 pm Dinner

6:45 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, March 16

6:00 pm Girl Scouts

Saturday, March 18

10:30 am *Kids' Club*

Kid's Cub Kindergarten - Grade 5

Meet at the church



Join us June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm, for our Annual Vacation Bible School! This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email

Melissa Bocchino at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com. Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5th. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!

It is hard to believe but it is already time to start planning for summer camp!



Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape July 17-21.



Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



On **March 26**, following the service, we will provide lunch and will pack personal care kits for *Lutheran World Relief*.

Throughout the month of March we will collect items for those kits.

The items need to be **new**, and are as follows:



lightweight bath-size towels

- unopened soap
- adult size toothbrush
 - sturdy comb
 - metal nail clippers



These kits will then get sent around the world to people in desperate need of them. We appreciate your generosity to provide for others out of the abundance God provides for us.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Shirley Causby & Family
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Lucy Mitchell & Family
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Mark Reese Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Scott Frisk
Carol Fox
Brian Jackson & Family

Parker Holland Jennifer Lineberger Capt. Basil Jeff Marett Margaret Sparks Karen Wayt Donnie Yavelak

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer Mike Kelso

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 located in the narthex and online at WWW.holyc.org

Sunday School Attendance for March 5, 2017 CLASS CHILDREN **ADULTS** 2 Nursery 5 2 Preschool 2 **Upper & Lower Elementary** 10 8 Seekers 7 Adults Total 17 20



Holy C Sandwich Group

Do life situations sometimes leave you feeling "sandwiched?"

Do you ever feel like the middle slice of meat — maybe fried to a crisp — expected to hold together a whole club sandwich?

Would a little Christian community pick-me-up help pull you through?

Join us for scripture, dinner, laughter and togetherness on Saturday, April 1st at 6:30 at Mark & Rebecca Yount's 511 Belwood Drive in Belmont.

Whether you're single, married, or somewhere in between, all are welcomed, with the hope to meet on a regular basis.

Please email myount@belmontfederal.com or Rebecca.yount@lashgroup.com **by March 17**th to let us know you're coming.

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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager