Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 17, 2019

The Second Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

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, \pm one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.
- C Amen.
- P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P God at the margins,
- C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.
- P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of + Christ, leading you from death into life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life All Stand & Sing



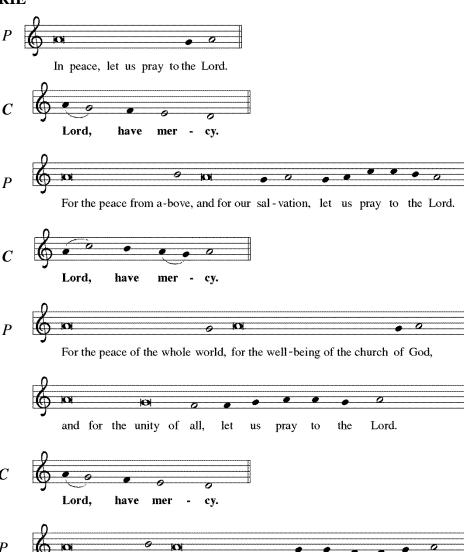
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain; among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod; till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

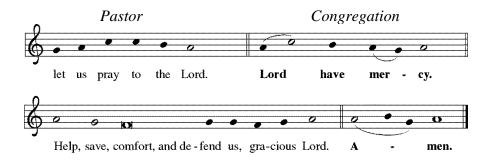
GREETING

- 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



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



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





God the Fa - ther.

Α

men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

in the glo - ry of

P Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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 are 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis, the fifteenth chapter.

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer

of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GoD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek $God \mid in$ the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,

the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹Teach me your | way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will | of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD and be strong.

Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from Philippians, the third chapter.

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to

himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35

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

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

SERMON Pastor Micah Silence is Kept for Reflection.

All Stand & Sing



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.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

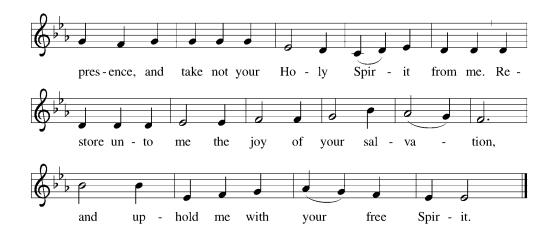
C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create in Me All Stand & Sing







OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

Compassionate God, call your people to stand firm as citizens of heaven. As we are humbled by your wondrous love, nurture such mercy in our hearts and ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Display your faithfulness to creation in the changing of the seasons. Orchestrate the great song of praise that comes from rivers, birds, mountains, livestock, and wind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drown out the terror in the world with acts of lovingkindness and generosity. Release political leaders from pride and fear to act justly and to serve citizens. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rush to answer those who cry out to you in time of trial (*especially*). Give shelter to your vulnerable children and cover them in the comfort of your mothering wings. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant solace to people who long to be parents but have faced difficulty in bearing or adopting children. Build life-giving parent and child relationships for the sake of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Build up your holy community of saints through the work of bishops and missionaries. Spread your word through your people for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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,

BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

C Amen.



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

SENDING

- A Go in Peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this The Second 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. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is 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.

Nurseries **Available**

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Harold & Jo Singleton in memory of Scott Surrett, nephew of Jo Singleton; and by Jerri Wesson in honor of her son Daniel Robinson for his 39th birthday (on March 9).

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

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, March 10, 2019:

Attendance: 129

Budget Report March 10, 2019 Year-to-Date Offering \$ 7,560.00 \$ 51,540.01 5,774.35 Expenses \$ 59,516.42 Offering less Expenses 1,785.65 (\$ 7,976.41) Expected (Budgeted) Expenses \$58,293.40 Offering less Budgeted Expenses 6,753.39)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Jo Singleton **GREETER:** Pat Long

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sherry Alexander

Volunteers

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains **TELLERS**: Amanda & Nathan Kelly Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 17-23

March 20 Mike Wesson March 21 Riley Fleming

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, March 17:

8:45 am Children's Ensemble 5:30 pm Youth Handbells 9:30 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

5:00 pm Handbells

HCY

6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

Thursday, March 21:

Wednesday, March 20:

7:00 pm Evangelism meeting

Tuesday, March 19:

6:00 pm Social Ministry meeting 7:00 pm Christian Ed meeting

Health Committee meeting

Nar-Anon







A signup sheet for the *Isle of Palms Retreat* is in the church office hallway. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay.



Can You Say Sine-You-Site-Us? What, exactly, IS sinusitis? Sinusitis is the name for a condition in which the lining of the sinuses becomes inflamed. This can be caused by allergies, using decongestant nasal sprays too much, smoking, swimming, bacteria or viruses. The symptoms of sinusitis include pain or pressure in the forehead, cheeks, and between the eyes; headache; fever; nasal congestion; reduced sense

of smell and taste; cough; bad breath; and sometimes an ache in the teeth. How do we treat it? You can use a saline nasal spray to help clear the mucous out of your nasal passages. If you have pain or pressure, your doctor may prescribe a decongestant to help your sinuses drain. Over-the-counter pain relievers can ease headache and sinus pain. If you have an actual infection, your doctor may prescribe an antibiotic or – if the sinusitis is caused by allergies – your doctor may treat the allergy. No matter what the cause, be sure to get plenty of rest, plenty of fluids, and don't self-medicate.





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Zac Hullander Sue Lahr Ben Moose Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Linda Cline
The Family of
Romania Cline
Nancy Dickson
Dallas Foscue
Carol Fox

Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Ruth Lyerly
Cookie Lynn
Jane Marino

Clarence McLain Anne Murdy Richard Peters Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Jack Wade 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.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2019-2020 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. The deadline for your *completed* application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30. Any applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The annual deadline April 30th and the awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- Total amount in the fund
- Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry



Holy Doodles





BEGINNING **THURSDAYS**, March 21 @ 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall

A ONCE-A-WEEK EXERCISE CLASS DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE

JOIN US FOR **P.E.P.** (People Exercising for a Purpose)

FUN! Fellowship and conversation while you exercise GENTLY!!

NO HUFFING, NO PUFFING, NO BOUNCY MOVEMENTS – ALL EXERCISE CAN BE DONE SEATED, IF NEEDED

Join the Health Ministry in adding exercise to your life – get the **TEAM SPIRIT!** And some PEP!

Ouestions?

Call Teresa Keller, RN, PN @ 717-329-8507, email me at parishnurse0407@gmail.com, or sign up near the coffee in the education wing.

FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND!!

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 Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse