Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 5, 2019

The Third Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: Trumpet Voluntary Pavlechko

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

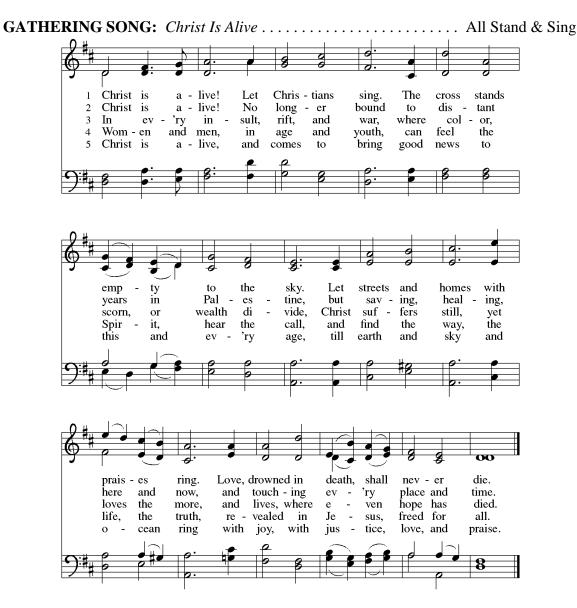
C Amen.

- P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source. We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

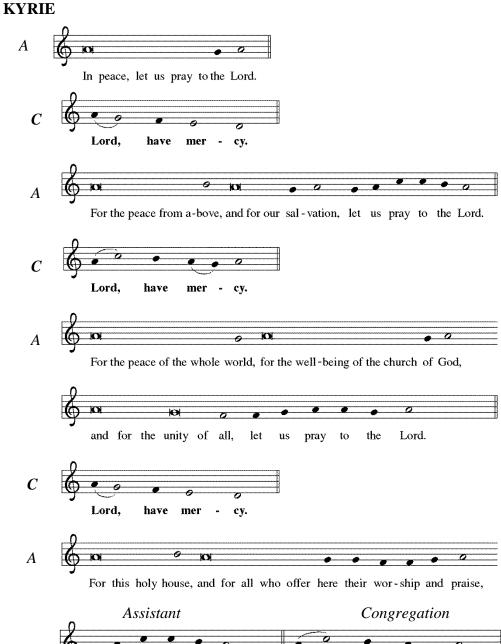
Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

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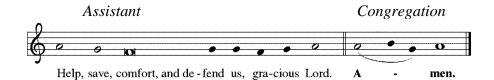
GREETING

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.







CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 Acts 9:1-20

A reading from Acts, the ninth chapter.

Each of us has a story of meeting God's grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because

they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried | out to you, and you restored | me to health.

³You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

⁴Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful; give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance.

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

⁶While I felt se- | cure, I said,

"I shall never | be disturbed.

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

⁸I cried to | you, O LORD;

I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;

O LORD, | be my helper."

¹¹You have turned my wailing | into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

12 Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from Revelation, the fifth chapter.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might

forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 21:1-19

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

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did

the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

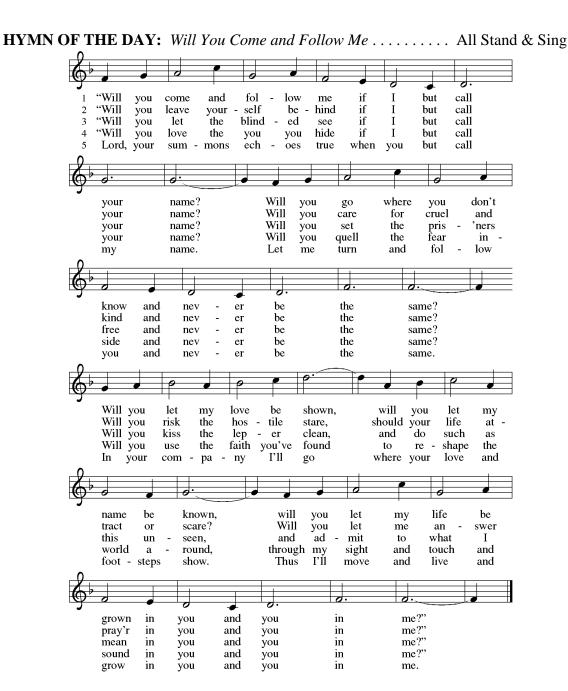
¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Seminarian Tara Fleck

Silence is kept for reflection.



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

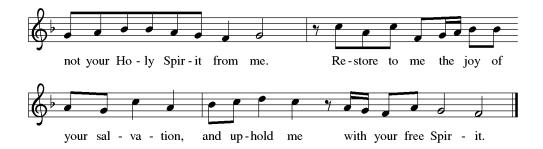
The peace of Christ be with you always. P

And also with you. \mathbf{C}

OFFERING



Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take spir-it with-in me.



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

Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call your disciples to follow the way of the cross by their words and works of love. Make your church a place of welcome and empathy for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Every creature in heaven and on earth sings your praise. Give us deep appreciation for the vibrant diversity of creation—flowers and streams, animals and bugs, sunsets and stormy skies. Help us to conserve the beauty around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to the aid of those who are persecuted, oppressed, or imprisoned by hostile governments (*especially*). Walk with refugees and immigrants as they seek safe homes. Raise up leaders who welcome the stranger and respond with generosity and hospitality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring relief to bodies weary with pain or sickness. Bless doctors, nurses, hospice workers, home health care providers, therapists, social workers, and all caregivers who

demonstrate your love in acts of healing and tenderness toward those in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You feed us at your holy table and send us out to feed others. Bless those who fish, bake, and cook, restaurant servers, grocery store workers, and food pantry volunteers. Open our eyes to your grace present in every meal that we share. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All honor and glory and blessing belong to you. We praise you for the faith of the saints. Be near us as we await the day when we will feast with the risen Christ forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

BLESSING

P The blessing of the living God, Father, & Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!* All Stand & Sing Al - le lu ia! Je - sus en! 1 is ris 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the ter cen 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch es; Weep-ing, be be lent: gone; sor - row. si 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for ev er, Trum - pets re sound - ing light! in glo - ri ous tell - ing the sto - ry o - pen eyes; to our in the Spir - it life the fruit of the tree; death put a sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. gold - en Je - sa lem, Je - sus the Lamb, ru Lamb. Splen-dor, the heav - en for er! ev break - ing our bread, giv - ing glo ry: us Christ to heav - en to earth, the peo ple, Cher - u sing: 0 grave, be pen! bim o riv - er life, saints and arch of an gels, Oh. what a mir - a cle God sight! has in bless - ing, Je sus our our con - stant sur prise. fu - ture flow - ing gift of the now to me. Clothe us in won - der, dorn light. a us in sing with cre a - tion to God the Ι AM! Refrain Je - sus is - en and shall rise. ris we a

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922−1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Give God

Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

the

Al - le - lu

ia!

glo - ry!

SENDING

A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this Third 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 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.

<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 Brad & Brandy Milton in memory of Brandy's mother Janice Gardner; and by Carmen, Arden & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Grandma Dianne'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.

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 28, 2019:

Attendance: 80

Budget Report April 28, 2019 Year-to-Date Offering 3,183.00 \$ 87,850.01 Expenses 5,774.35 \$ 97,980.59 Offering less Expenses (\$ 10,130.58) 2.591.35) Expected (Budgeted) Expenses \$ 98,163.88 Offering less Budgeted Expenses (\$ 10,313.87)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 4/28/19

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 149,807 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 Remaining Needed: \$40,193

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Brian Achor **GREETER:** Pat Koehler

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER:

Olivia Sarrazin & Noah Rawlins

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)
Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain
Carmon Do Nicholas

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

TELLERS: Amanda & Nathen Kelly
CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Sherry Alexander

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

Melissa McGinnis

USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 5-11

Today, May 5 Tom Bocchino

May 7 Dianne Lail Alec Via May 9 Anthony DiBiase May 10 Zac Hullander



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, May 5

8:45 am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm **HCY** meets at the church

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, May 7:

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Thursday, May 9:

7:00 pm Tai Chi session in Fellowship Hall



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

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

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe Meredith Hovis Clarence McLain Anne Murdy **Doug Brewer** Steve Leonard Ron de la Vega Jennifer Lineberger Richard Peters Nancy Dickson Ronnie Lunsford Tommy Smith Carol Fox Ruth Lyerly **Brody Thornburg** Cookie Lynn Earl Gardner Dennis Yates Larry "Poss" Garrett Jane Marino

Tom Kasmer

Beau Carroll

OUR SERVICEMEN

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.



Meditation's Healing Powers Your mental state can have a profound effect on your body, and vice versa – that's old news – and, hopefully, you've learned that stress can have detrimental effect on blood pressure, cholesterol, our stomach and digestive system, it can trigger inflammatory responses in the immune system, and it may be a factor in cognitive decline. It follows that finding a way to reduce stress will help put the brakes on the bad things it brings. Try this: Sit in a comfortable chair in

a quiet place using good posture. Close your eyes and systematically relax all of your muscles. Breathe slowly and evenly and silently repeat something soothing with every exhalation...such as, "I am calm." When distractions come in, dismiss them and send them back out. Do this for 15 to 20 minutes and you'll find yourself relaxed and serene when you are done! There are many types of meditation – we used guided imagery in the PEP classes – but the basics are simple and take only 15-20 minutes. AND, lucky for you, Tai

Chi is also a wonderful form of exercise that relaxes and destresses! As you go through the flowing movements in Tai Chi, you focus your attention on certain sensations to encourage mindfulness which can increase feelings of well-being and reduce stress. So, if you haven't signed up for **Tai Chi**, come ahead anyway and join us this Thursday. But, even if Tai Chi doesn't appeal to you, work on the stressors in your life – your body will thank you!





Get your blood pressure checked today!! After worship in the fellowship hall – we will see you there!







NOTE: To insure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.



In Search Of Volunteers

Vacation Bible School

July 28-31 Dinner offered at 5:45pm Program 6:15 - 8:00 pm Pre-K through Grade 5



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MKearney@holyc.org
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse