

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 5th, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *O Worship the King*

Handbell Choir

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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *For All the Saints*

All Stand & Sing



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .
 saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;



we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are are a brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
 Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

GREETING

P Siblings in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

*All Sing Refrain,
Leader Sings Verse*



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



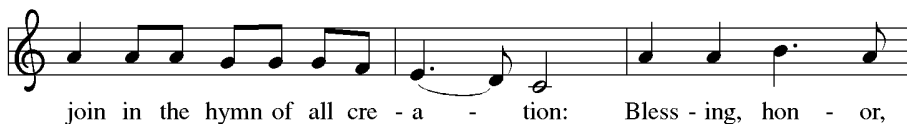
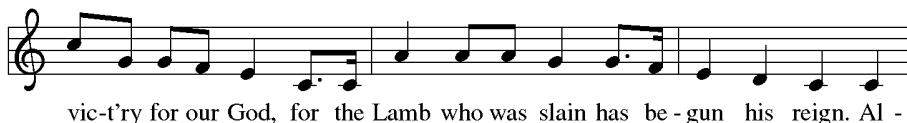
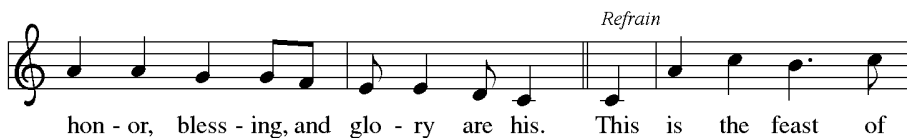
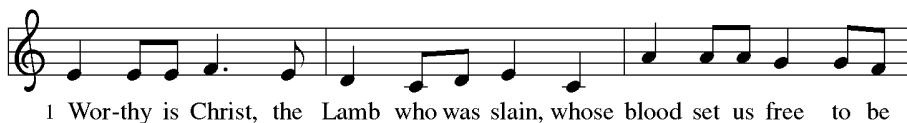
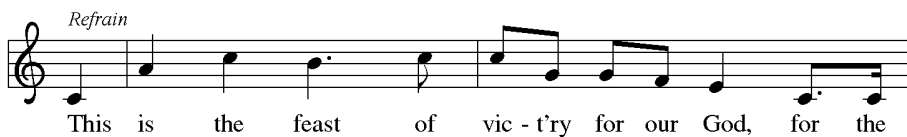
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

All Sing





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation, the seventh chapter.

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every

nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

A reading from First John, the third chapter.

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.


¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All Stand & Sing



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

L The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON

Deacon Beka

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *By All Your Saints*

All Stand & Sing



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 All praise, O Lord, for An - drew, the first to wel-come you,
3 Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
whose wit-ness to his broth - er named you Mes-si - ah true.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
May we, with hearts kept o - pen to you through-out the year,
till all the ran-somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
pro - claim to friend and neigh - bor your ad - vent ev - er near.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for the funeral ministry of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

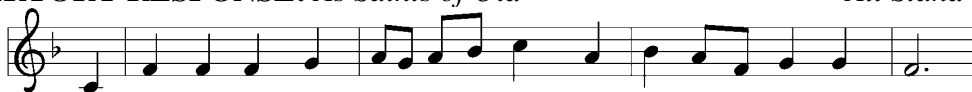
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *O Love*

Church Choir

O Love, O Love, O Love that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be. O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee, I give Thee back the life I owe...and in Thy ocean depths its flow... Shall richer, fuller be; that morn shall tearless be. O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As Saints of Old*

All Stand & Sing



DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

All Stand & Sing

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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

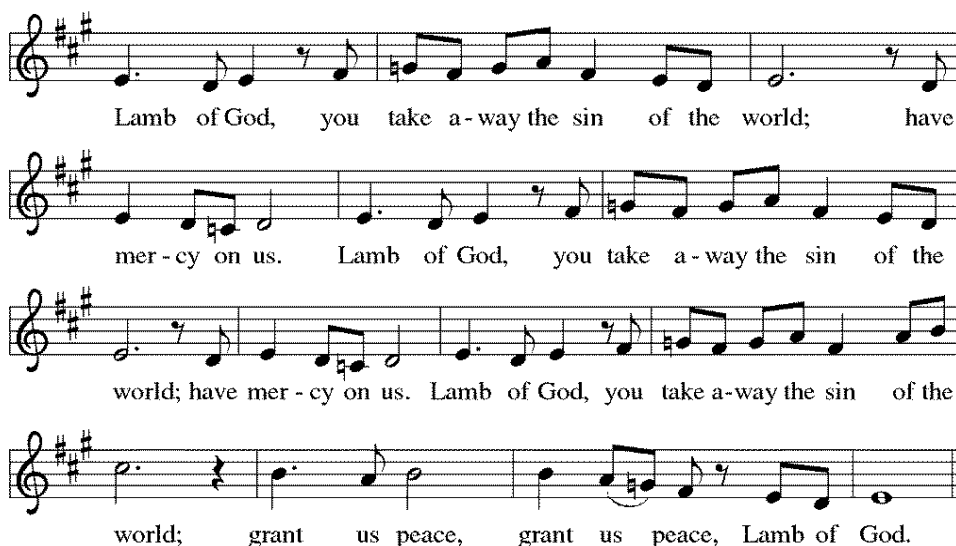
P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

C Thanks be to God.



LAMB OF GOD

All Sing



COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace.
 You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able.
 You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink.
 You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

All Sing

1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;
5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see

When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional; arr. hymnal version

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In*

All Stand & Sing



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the
2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they
5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that
hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.
num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

SENDING

P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Rejoice, The Lord is King*

Burkhardt

*Special thanks to our Lector, Jodi Nerret.

*The altar flowers were given by Rianna Nance for Declan's and Tom's Birthday from Rianna and Callum.

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday, November 5th

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir

Monday, November 6th

7:00 pm – Fall Book Club

Wednesday, November 8th

6:00 pm – Youth Handbells

6:45pm – Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

Thursday, November 9th

10:30 am – Prime Timers

**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving
Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give.**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager