# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 12, 2019

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Hymn to Joy* . . . . . Setting by Benjamin Culli

#### 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: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

#### **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.









- 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
- 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





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,



#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**





#### **SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through 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 9:36-43

A reading from the ninth chapter of Acts.

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

#### SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the seventh chapter of Revelation.

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.

<sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And 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, <sup>12</sup>singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I 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.

<sup>15</sup>For 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.

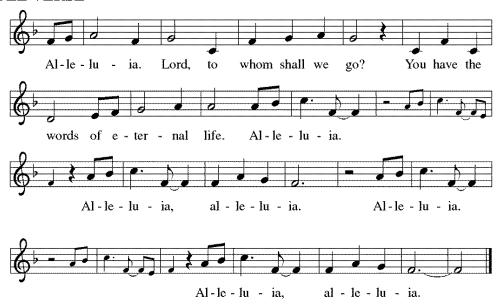
<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for 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.

#### **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL John 10:22–30

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

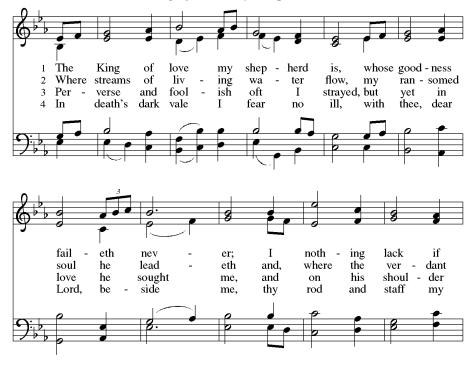
Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

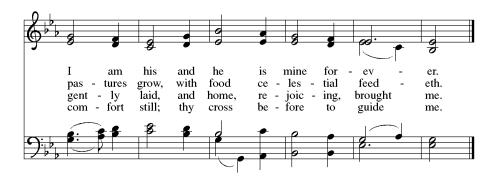
<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one."

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

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** The King of Love My Shepherd Is . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish 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

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

A brief silence.

Shine your light through this and every congregation. Reveal to us the light of your salvation in places of hopelessness and decay. Anoint us and make us overflow with goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for gentle rains that nourish green pastures and rejuvenate rivers and streams. Provide clean water for thirsty people, animals, and crops. Heal places suffering destruction caused by floods, typhoons, storms, and mudslides. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Empower authorities to be faithful shepherds who lead nations in pathways of righteousness and peace. Disrupt and deter the work of terrorists, religious and political extremists, and all who would choose the way of violence over the way of mercy. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Give strength and perseverance to those facing struggles of hunger or thirst, unemployment or homelessness, chronic illness or anxiety (*especially*). Be our neverfailing voice of comfort through all the trials of this life. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Raise up faithful women as witnesses to your strength and compassion. Bless mothers and all who offer mothering care. Protect victims of sexism, abuse, and gender-based violence. Restore dignity to those marginalized because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Salvation belongs to you, O God. You promise to wipe away every tear. Give us the assurance that all who live and die in you will rest forever beside the river of life. 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.

#### **PEACE**

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

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Now the Green Blade Rises . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing green blade 1 Now the ris - es from the bur - ied grain, In the grave they laid love by ha - tred him, slain, came Eas - ter like the Forth he at ris - en grain, win - try, When our hearts are griev - ing, or in pain, wheat in dark that earth man - y days has lain; think ing that he would wake gain. nev - er a he that for three days in the grave had lain; call life touch can us back to a gain, your love lives a gain, that with the dead has been: laid the earth like grain that sleeps un in seen; raised from the dead, liv - ing Lord is my seen; dead and bare have fields of our hearts that been;

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

is

love

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, @ Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

come

a -

gain

like

wheat a - ris - ing

green.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- C Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

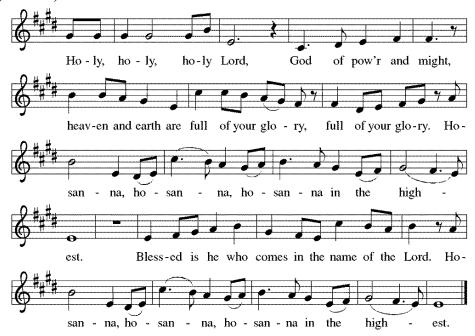
#### **DIALOGUE**

- 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



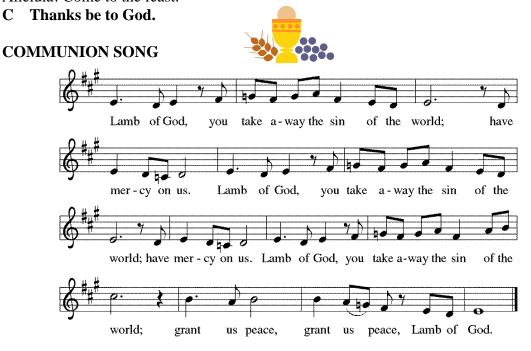
#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### 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 Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.



#### **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.

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:** *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need . . . .* All Sing



- 1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro vi sions of my God at tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream one word of your sup-port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways, Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread; Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

my cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.

no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

- 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 Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

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

C Amen.



**SENDING SONG:** Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

#### **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 Fourth 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.

**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 form on line at www.holyc.org.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Rebecca & Mark Yount and Luke Via in celebration of Alec's birthday; and by Jerri & Mike Wesson in honor of Breanna & Mikayla Robinson's 11th birthday and Mike & Jerri's 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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, May 5, 2019:

Attendance: 110

**Budget Report** May 5, 2019 Year-to-Date \$ 3,152.00 Offering \$ 92,012.46 5,774.35 \$106,086.74 Expenses Offering less Expenses 1,622.35) (\$ 14,074.28) \$104,213.20 Expected (Budgeted) Expenses Offering less Budgeted Expenses (\$ 12,200.74)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 5/5/19

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 149,977 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 Remaining Needed: \$40,023

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Sue Lahr

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER: TELLERS: Amanda & Nathen Kelly

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Olivia Sarrazin & Noah Rawlins

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Rebecca Yount

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas

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

Volunteer

Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers USHERS: Volunteers

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 12-18** 

Today, May 12 Jennifer W. Perez May 16 Sherry Perry

May 13 Rebekah Milton

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, May 12

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

## Tuesday, May 14:

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

## Wednesday, May 15:

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study (Monthly meeting for May)

## Thursday, May 16:

7:00 pm Tai Chi session in Fellowship Hall

## Saturday, May 18:

10:00 am Kids' Club meet at church7:00 pm Staying Connected meets at the church to make cards

Greg Garrison would like to thank the family of Holy Comforter for all the prayers, calls, texts and cards during the past several years during his father's illness.

As Greg and his family continue the journey after the passing of his father, please keep him and his family, especially his mother, in your prayers.

With Christian love, Greg Garrison





A Mother's Day Gift Basket Mothers are a beautiful gift from God. Motherhood is complex – a stressful joy. Mothers are in great need of health and hope and we can help give them these gifts today! Whether it's for your own mother, step-mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, godmother or a kindred spirit who has been *like* a mother to you – give this "basket" of blessings to the moms in your life to honor them today!

Fill your basket with...

- **Blossoms** of appreciation and thankfulness for her care, nurturing spirit, guidance, and love. Give thanks to God for your connection to this wonderful woman in your life!
- **Sweet treats** of your time to pay attention to her needs by listening to her concerns, lending a helping hand and generally giving of yourself to offer her rest and relaxation.
- **Hugs** of love for her as God has placed you in each other's lives for His purpose.
- Messages of hope and encouragement, support and adoration.
- **Prayers** for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Prayers for a close relationship with Christ. Prayers for His guidance, comfort and peace.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her."
Proverbs 31:28 Happy Mother's Day!

TAI CHI is still in session!



Thursdays @ 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall

If you missed the first one, you can still join us...it's \$30 for the entire program.



#### PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden

Zac Hullander Sue Lahr Ben Moose Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor

Beverly Reynolds Pat Robeson & Family Jerri & Mike Wesson Trudy Whitener & Family

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Ron de la Vega Nancy Dickson Carol Fox Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett Meredith Hovis

Adam Kincaid Steve Leonard Jennifer Lineberger Ronnie Lunsford Ruth Lyerly Cookie Lvnn Jane Marino Clarence McLain

Zak Merzouki Anne Murdy Linda Nichols Sara Nichols Tommy Smith **Brody Thornburg** 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.

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





July 15th - 19th
Rising 1st grade-Middle School
Registration forms are in the office.

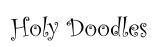
# In Search Of Volunteers

# **Vacation Bible School**

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











Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to
Trudy Whitener & Family
On the recent death of her brother
Jimmie Norris



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to
Pat Roberson & Family
On the death of her husband
George Roberson

## **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