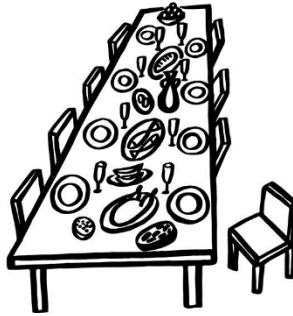


Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 28th, 2022

12th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Aria*

Dixon

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, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

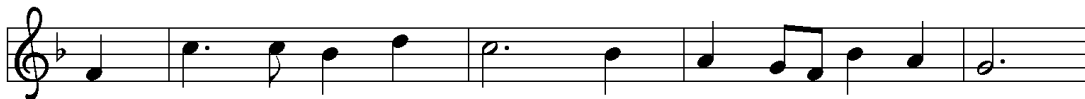
C we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *O, Praise the Gracious Power*

All Stand & Sing



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

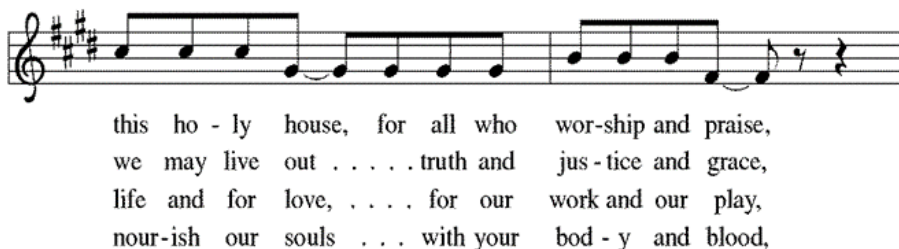
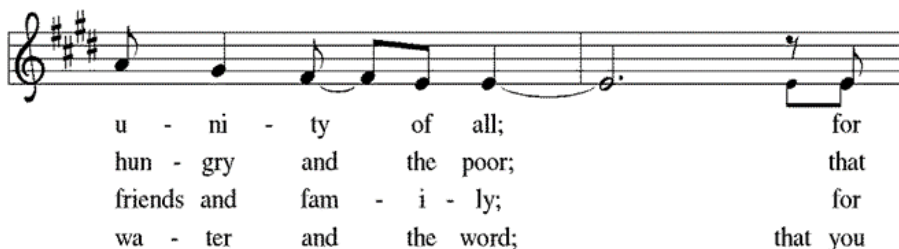
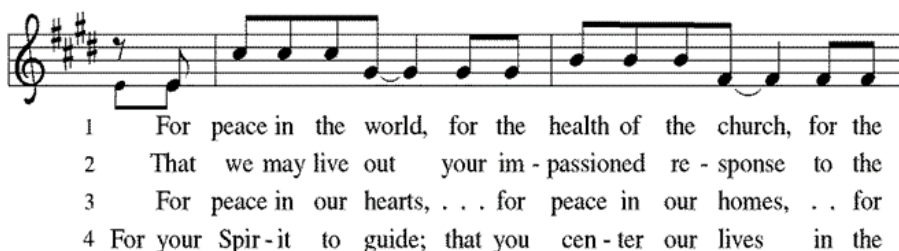
GREETING

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



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

All Sing

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
 peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
 vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
 le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7

A reading from Proverbs, the twenty-fifth chapter.

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;

⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews.

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Luke 14:1, 7-14

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As We Gather At Your Table*

All Stand & Sing



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all the saints who confessed God's name, we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand*

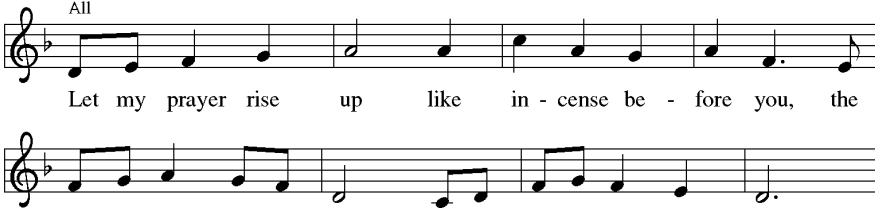
Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let My Prayer Rise Up*

All Stand and Sing

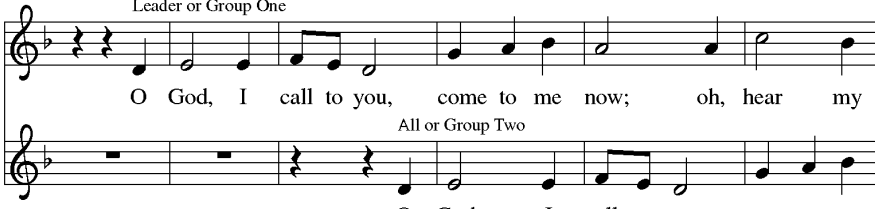
Group 1-Women/sopranos and altos, Group 2-Men/tenors and basses.

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Leader or Group One



O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my
All or Group Two
O God, I call to you, come to me



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like
now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my



of - fer - ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;
hands as an of - fer - ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing
 watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
 love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
 in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of
 of - fer - ing to you. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.
 God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Text: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141

Music: Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray,

C God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 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 In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

C Thanks be to God.



LAMB OF GOD

All Sing

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

During communion the congregation will be invited forward by rows, starting in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You will then return to your seat where you may eat and drink. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Now We Join In Celebration*

All Sing



- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. 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 Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Beautiful Savior*

All Sing

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

SENDING

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Trumpet Voluntary*

Pavlechko

Thank you to our Lector, Jim Buell

An altar flower vase was given by Shelia Kelly to the glory of God and in celebration of Graham Kelly's birthday

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

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

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster