

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 30th, 2022

## Reformation Sunday



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *A Mighty Fortress*

Church Choir

*(This version of this most famous hymn is rhythmically sung as it originally appeared in Luther's day.)*

### 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, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C Amen.**

P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

P Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ☩ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *A Mighty Fortress*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

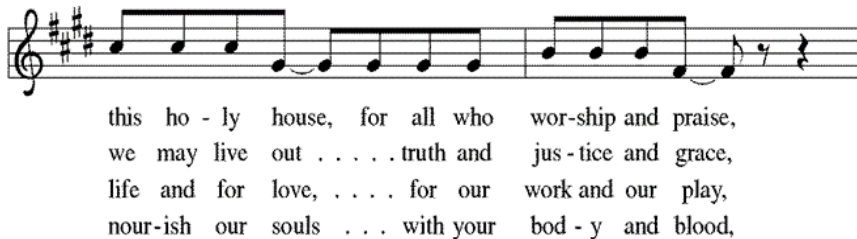
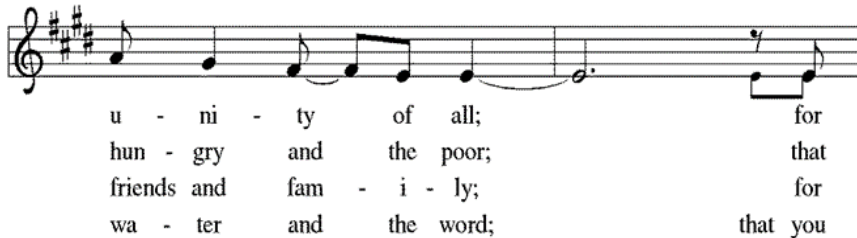
## GREETING

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.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving 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.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this

is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 3:19-28**

A reading from Romans, the third chapter.

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

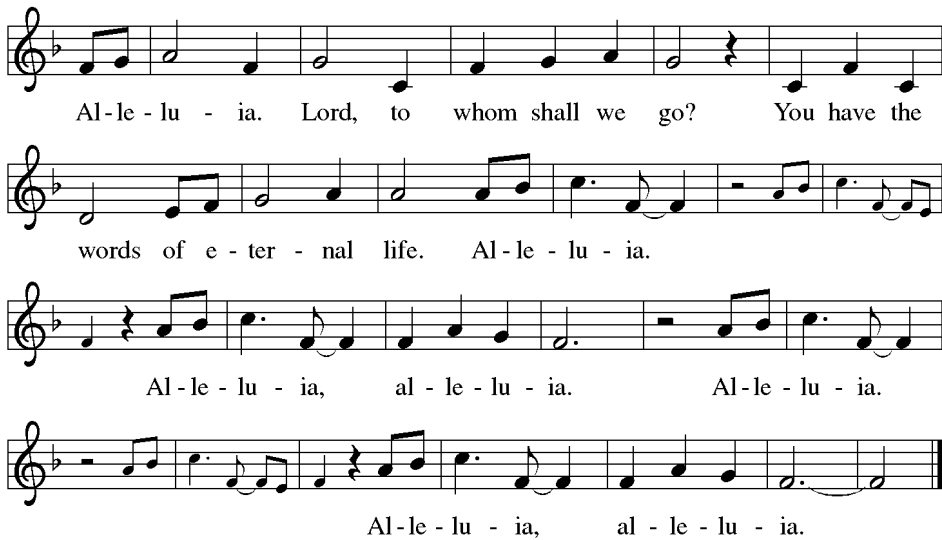
<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

**John 8:31-36**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated.*

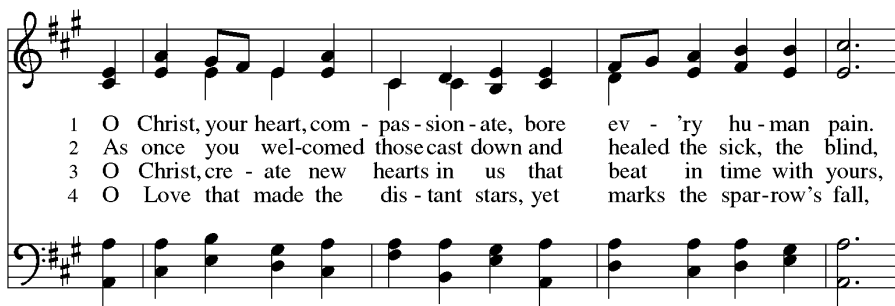
## SERMON

Pastor Micah

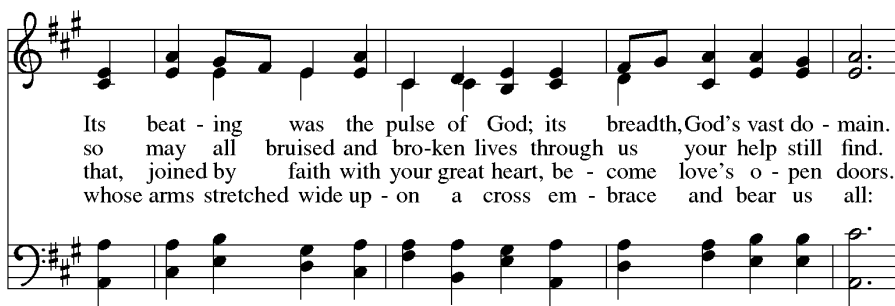
*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*

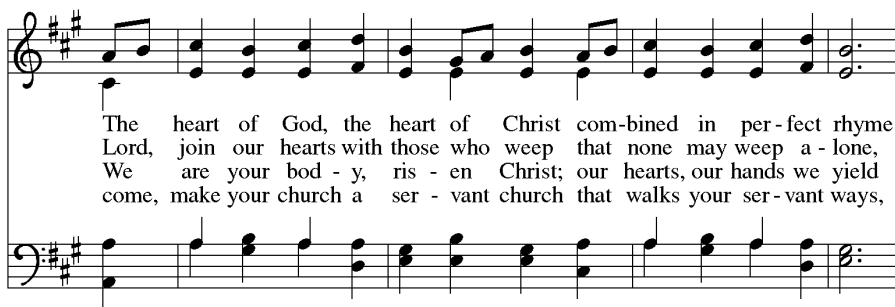
*All Stand & Sing*



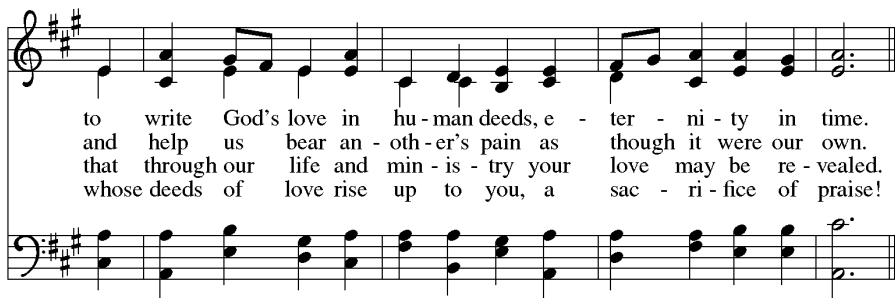
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
 2 As once you wel-came those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar-row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
 so may all bruised and bro-ken lives through us your help still find.  
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com-bined in per-fect rhyme  
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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## CONFIRMATION

### PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these confirmands, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present \_\_\_\_\_ who desires to make public affirmation of his/her baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Preston, Justin, and Leah, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The assembly may stand and join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Confirmand responds:*

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support Preston, Justin, and Leah and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those making affirmation may kneel.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Let us rejoice with our brothers and sister in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our fortress, we pray for the church. Write your law of love on the hearts of your people, that we remain steadfast in our witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our liberator, we pray for your earth. Bring new life to overused land and contaminated rivers. Reform and reorient our relationship with the environment, that we faithfully care for all of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, our refuge and strength, we pray for the nations. Where they are in an uproar, bring wise leadership and comfort for those in distress. Make wars to cease and peace to enter every land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, our very present help in trouble, we pray for those in need. Show mercy to refugees and all fleeing from danger. Shelter any without homes. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our redeemer, we pray for our congregation. Bless our new confirmands. Open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, teach them your word, and give them courage to proclaim their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our stronghold, we give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, especially Martin Luther and all reformers. Renew and reform us as we strive to continue in your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Call*

Church Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Making Their Way*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,  
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,

the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003

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## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray,

**C Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. 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 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

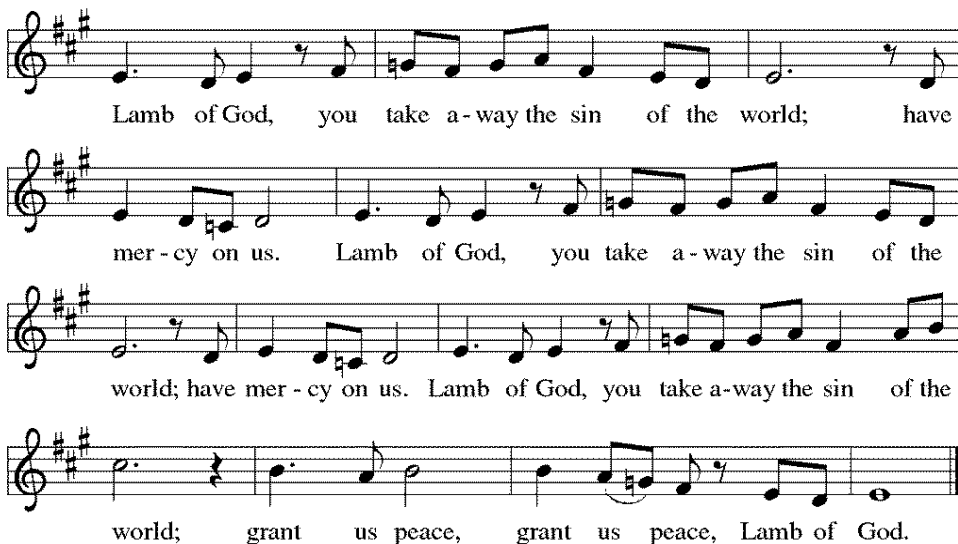
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.  
C Thanks be to God.



### LAMB OF GOD

*All Sing*



## COMMUNION

*For communion, you will come up the aisle, take a cup at the front pew, and then follow the line around the altar rail. You'll kneel if able, then receive the bread and eat. The wine will be poured into your cup as you hold it, and you may drink it then. Everyone will be dismissed together and you'll walk back to your pew the way came.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Bread of Life from Heaven*

*All Sing*

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

- |   |       |     |      |       |      |            |                  |            |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break | now | the  | bread | of   | Christ's   | sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing  |
| 2 | Seek  | not | the  | food  | that | will       | pass a - way;    | set your   |
| 3 | Love  | as  | the  | one   | who, | in         | love for you,    | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell | in  | the  | one   | who  | now        | dwells in you;   | make your  |
| 5 | Drink | of  | this | cup   | and  | de - clare | his death;       | eat this   |

thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts on the food	that en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and	the	
self for the life	of the world.	Come	to	the	one	who	is	
home in the life -	giv - ing Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly			
bread and be - lieve	Eas - ter morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with		

sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may	be yours.
food for you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst	be	no more.
One of God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth	you	have heard.
ev - 'ry breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are re - born.

**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** God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

**P** God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**C** Amen.



# SENDING HYMN: *The Church's One Foundation*

*All Stand & Sing*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

## **SENDING**

**P** Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE:** *Reformation Fanfare*

Miller

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\*Thank you to our Lector, Ashley Hyman

\*Thank you to our Cantor, Greg Byrum

## **This Week's Schedule:**

### **Sunday, October 30th**

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:10 am - Church Choir in balcony

10:30 am - Worship in the Sanctuary with Confirmation

11:30 am - Reformation Luncheon

5:00 pm - Handbell practice

6:00 pm - Choir practice

### **Wednesday, November 2nd**

4:00 pm - Faith Formation Video posted

5:30 pm- "Unfailing Light" Handbell practice

6:45 pm - Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm - Chamber Choir



**"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**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483  
[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)  
Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster