Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 31, 2022

8th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: To Sing Once More Courtney

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.



- 1 O liv ing Bread from heav en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav-ior, you have led me with in your ho-liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want ed; this food can death de stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have and here your-self have And you have free - ly my course on earth is giv - en have fed me with grant - ed the length - ened, to filled my heart with rest. trea - sures of your grace; cup of end - less joy. serve you, free from fear;



bless - ing! O O won-drous food of that heals our woes! cup vou have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er for Lord, I do mer - it the fa - vor you have shown, My not bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy, and



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

GREETING

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

C And also with you.







SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from the first and second chapters of Ecclesiastes.

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet

they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-11

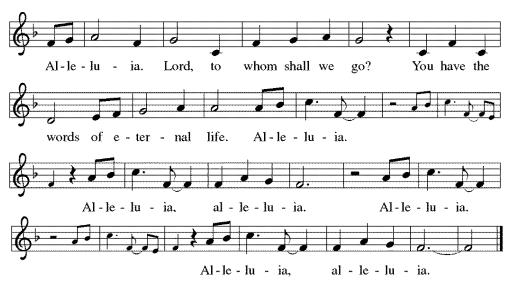
A reading from the third chapter of Colossians.

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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



GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

All Stand & Sing



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat - tered door, all at peace in health and free-dom, rac - es joined, the church made one. ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our - selves in praise; Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra-cious do - nor of our days. born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne. heal - ing, teach-ing, and re - claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress (*especially*). Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

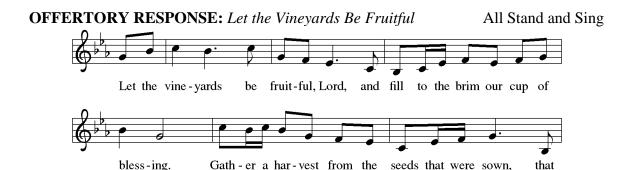
Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

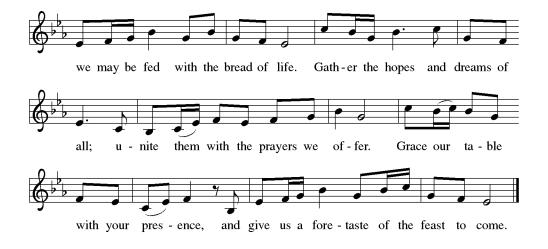
Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: I'll Walk With God Solo





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

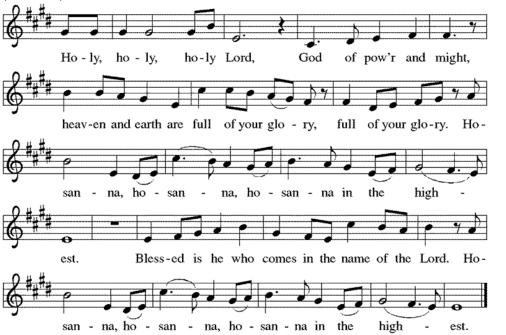
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



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

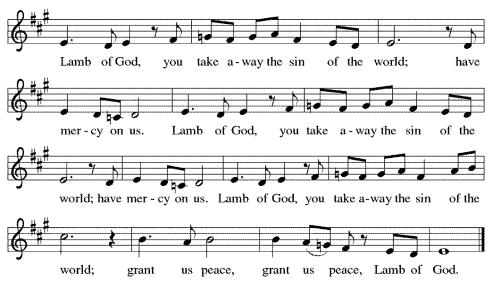
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

All Sing



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 briefly remove your mask to eat and drink, and then quickly replace it. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.

- 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.



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

SENDING

- P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Awake, My Soul and Sing

Pote

- *A Special thanks to our Soloist, Don Robinson.*
- **The flowers are given by Darrell Drum to the glory of God and in memory of Shirley Drum.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.



"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

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

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org
Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Sandra Askey, Office Manager