

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 7, 2014

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Thy Word* Webb

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, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

C Amen.

P Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

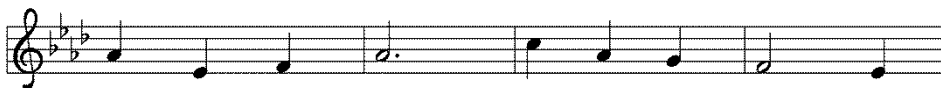
P Generous and faithful God,

C we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy. Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others. Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin, and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

C Amen.

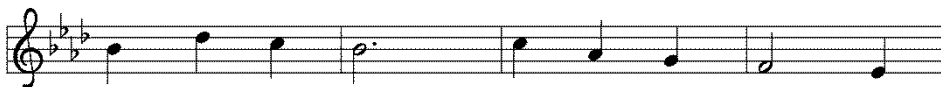
GATHERING SONG: *Earth and All Stars!* All Stand & Sing



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



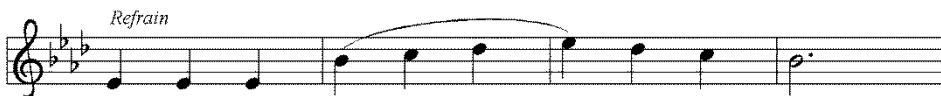
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail, wind, and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete	and band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter	and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

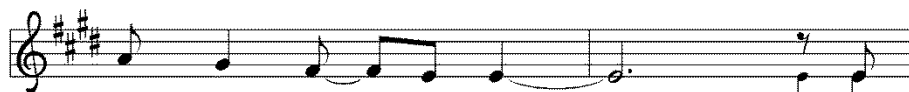
KYRIEGreg Byrum verses, Congregation Refrain



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

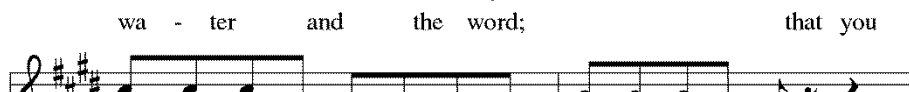
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

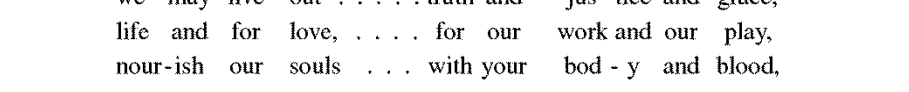
wa - ter and the word; that you



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

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-



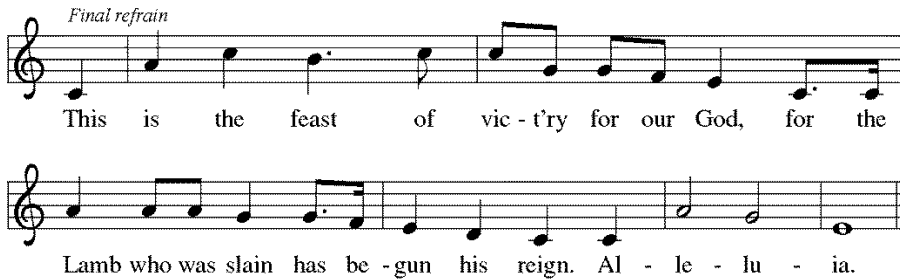
le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7–11

A reading from the thirty-third chapter of Ezekiel.

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from

their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8–14

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE





GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15–20

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

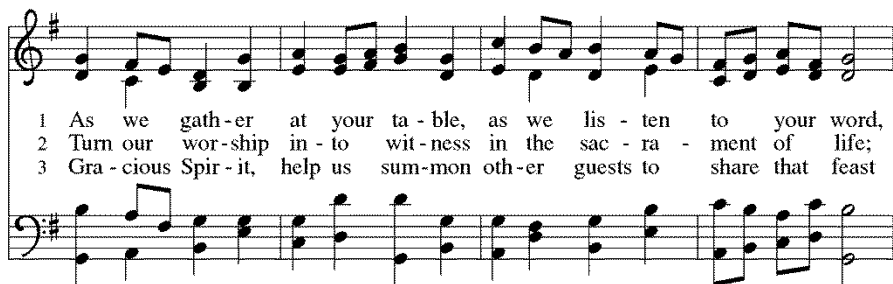


P The gospel of the Lord.

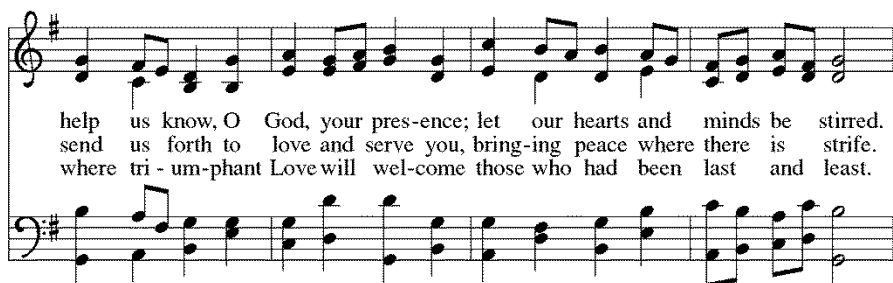
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As We Gather At Your Table* All Stand & Sing



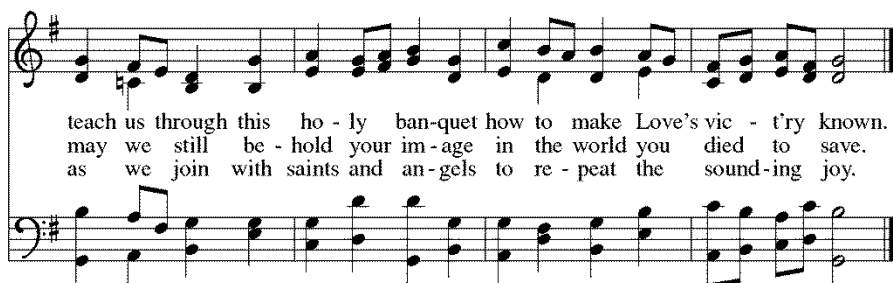
1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



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; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE 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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of love, your church is a place of relationship. Give us understanding to care for you and each other with our whole hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your creation is a precious gift. Turn our hearts to share its resources wisely rather than in selfish gain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your desire for us is peace. Lead us along paths of justice and give us delight in living with honor and loving our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your ways are goodness and life. Free us from those things that create fear and dread, loneliness and heartache, pain and disgrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you gather us around your word, your font, and your table. Teach us to be a community of grace and witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, your promise to us is resurrection. Confirm in us that promise as we remember those who have died trusting in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

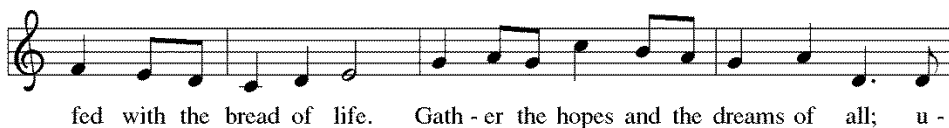
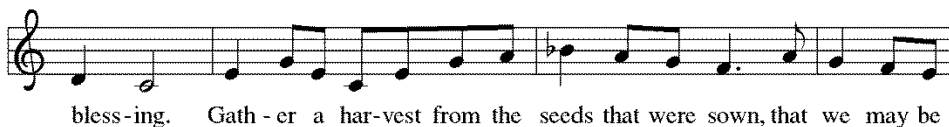
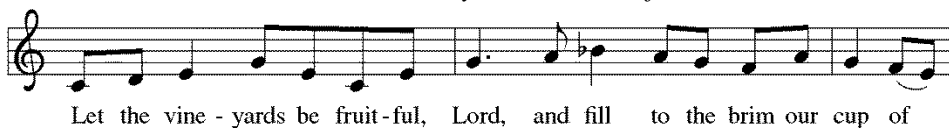
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Build Us Up, Lord* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* All Stand & Sing





OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

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.

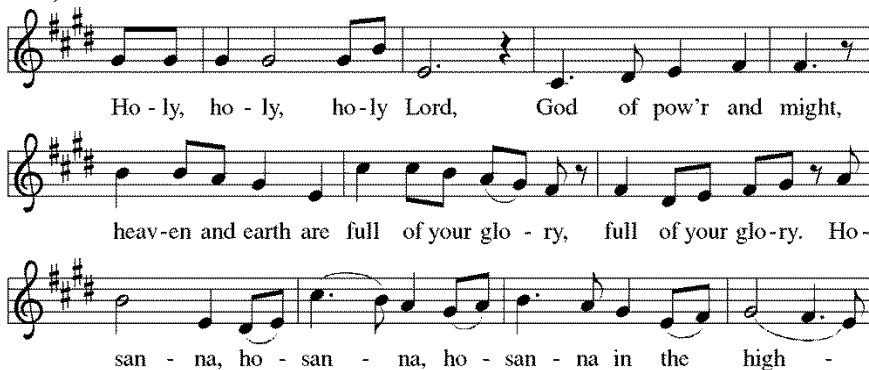
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

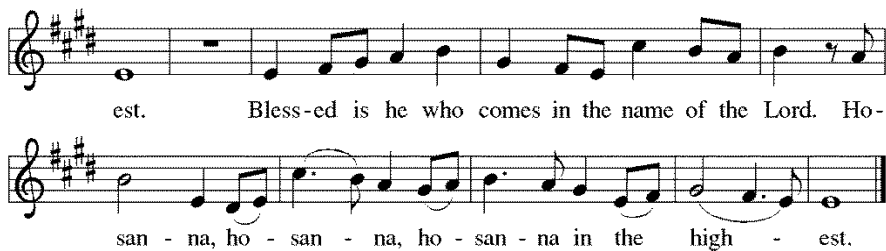
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

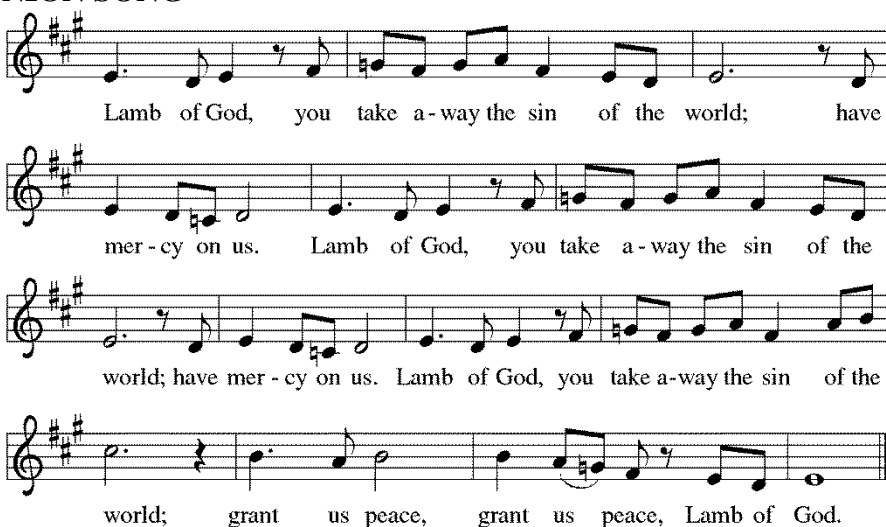
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.

C Thanks be to God.



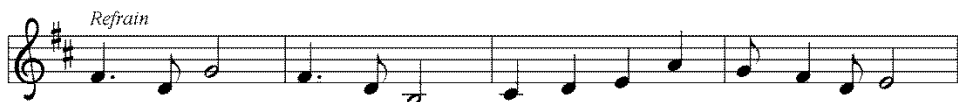
COMMUNION SONG



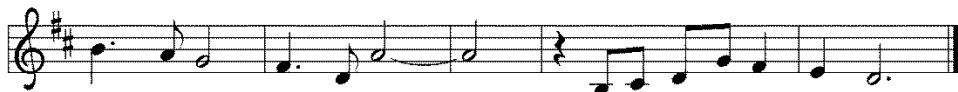
COMMUNION

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: *Eat This Bread* All Sing



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth-ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

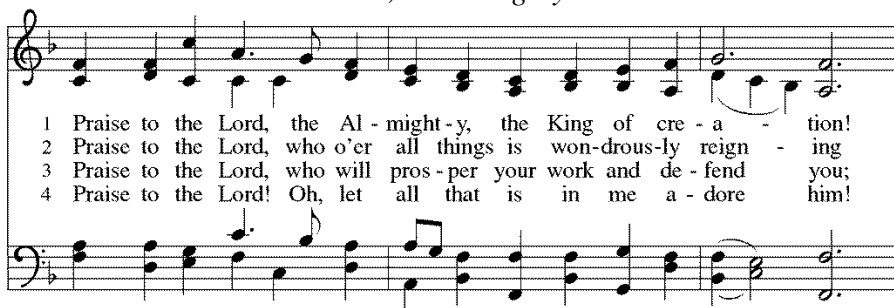
C O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

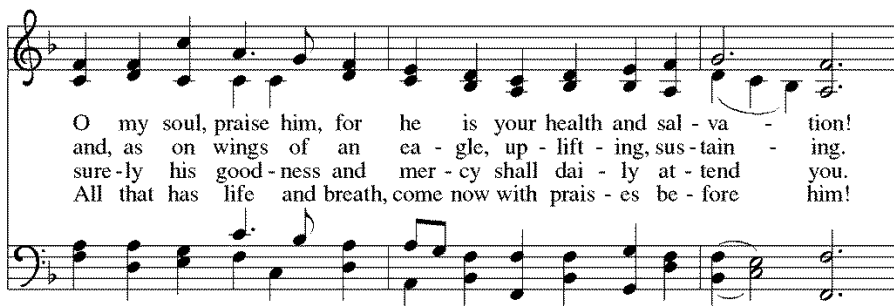
P The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

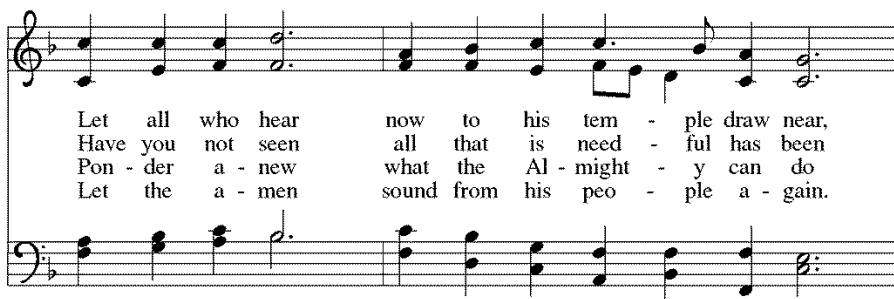
SENDING SONG: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* All Stand & Sing



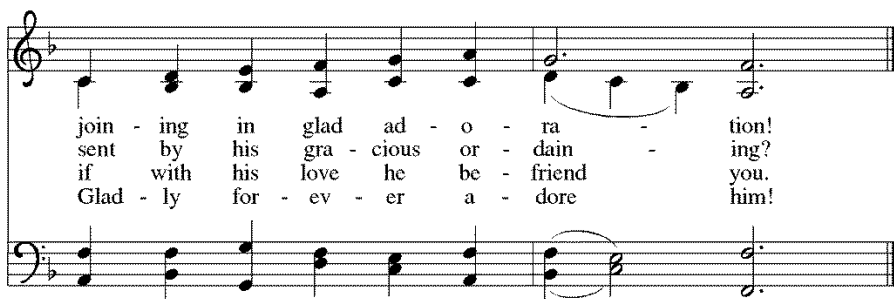
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.



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 Dianne Lail in honor of granddaughter Ashleigh Nichols' 4th birthday and in memory of father, A. O. Lail.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 31, 2014:

Attendance: 129

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 8/31/14
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

August 31, 2014

\$ 2,976.86
\$ 4,504.60
\$140,668.78
\$ 959.55
(\$ 15,914.27)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Melissa Bocchino & Mandi Kline

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell, Nathan Baakko

GREETER: Brenda Daly, Louise Day

CRUCIFERS: Aaron Nault, Ashton Nault

USHERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell, Barbara Kasmer, Deb Williams

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Need Volunteers

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin,
Bill Hollar

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS:

Today: Trudy Whitener + Helper; Next Sunday: No Children's Church. (At Lutheridge)

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 7

9:00 am **Photo session**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Choir meets in choir room
10:30 am The Service w/*Holy Communion*
Photo session continues
5:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Monday, September 8

11:00 am **Morning Circle**
Monique Estelle, Hostess
Meet in fellowship hall

Tuesday, September 9

12:00 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**
Bible Study/Potluck lunch
7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

NOTE: Children's' Ensemble will resume September 21 at 4 pm.



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 7-13

Today, Sept. 7 Elizabeth Bruchon
September 8 Lainey Baakko

September 11 Hannah Carnes
Madison Carr
Maria Carr



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Virginia Crump
Brenda Dabrowski

Louise Day
Daniel Dowd
Cher Grant
Ferrie Hedrick

Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Janice Barker
Kathy Beam
Helen Brasfield
Dale Burris
Father Frank Cancro
Ken Capps
Wesley Coleman
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Donald Freeman
Ronnie Garrison
Ronnie Hersey

Judy Jackson
Dennis Jordan
Wesley Jordan & Family
Betty Kannapel
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Becky Knick
Alice Langley
Laura Lanuto & Family
Pierce Lee
Steve Mathis
Peggy McKenney & Family
Sandra Nix
Mark Outlaw
Jean Peters
Leland "Lee" Peterson

Scott Phillips
Steve Pletsas
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Mara Rappleyea
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
E. Taylor & Family
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward
Bryan Wayburn
Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

Holy Comforter Worship At Lutheridge Sunday, September 14



Worship in *Whisnant Chapel* at 10:30 am
8:00 am Depart from Holy Comforter

Covered Dish Luncheon at Lakeside Lodge.
Please bring side dishes and/or dessert to feed your family and others.

There will be NO Sunday School for the children on this Sunday.
There WILL be Worship Service at Holy Comforter
(for those who cannot attend at Lutheridge).
All afternoon church meetings cancelled.



**Come, let us Worship together on this
Church Family Day!**



If you would like
to help
with the
Church Picnic

Please contact
Tom Bocchino
(for details) at
tbocchino@hotmail.com
Or 704-461-8208



Sunday School Attendance August 31, 2014

	<i>Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Nursery	2	1
Pre-K	3	2
God's Eden	10	3
Youth	2	2
Seekers		8
Adult Bible Class		15
Totals:	17	31



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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: MicahKearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager