

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 18th, 2022

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



### WELCOME/ GATHERING:

**PRELUDE:** *O Christ the Same.* ..... Irish Tune

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L 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.**

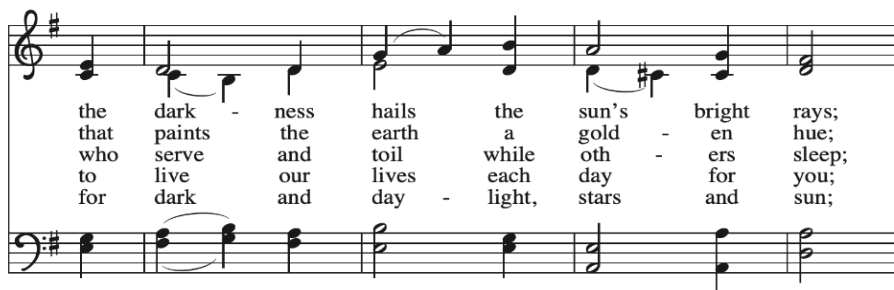
L Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✠ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *The Night You Gave Us. . . . . All Stand & Sing*



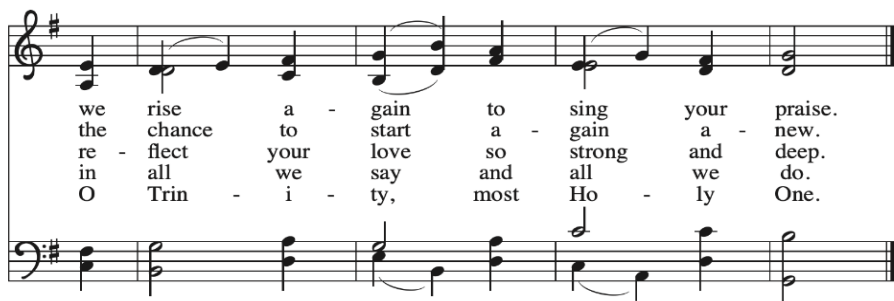
1 The night you gave us, God, has end - ed,  
 2 We thank you for each glo - rious sun - rise  
 3 Bless those who work in hours of dark - ness,  
 4 We pray for en - er - gy and pas - sion  
 5 We praise you, God, for na - ture's rhy - thms,



the dark - ness hails the sun's bright rays;  
 that paints the earth a gold - en hue;  
 who serve and toil while oth - ers sleep;  
 to live our lives each day for you;  
 for dark and day - light, stars and sun;



as shad - ows flee and earth a - wak - ens,  
 each day your grace grants new be - gin - nings,  
 their lives of car - ing and pro - tect - ing  
 may all a - round us sense your pres - ence  
 your whole cre - a - tion sings your glo - ry,



we rise a - gain to sing your praise.  
 the chance to a - gain a - new.  
 re - flect your love so strong and deep.  
 in all we say and all we do.  
 O Trin - i - ty, most Ho - ly One.

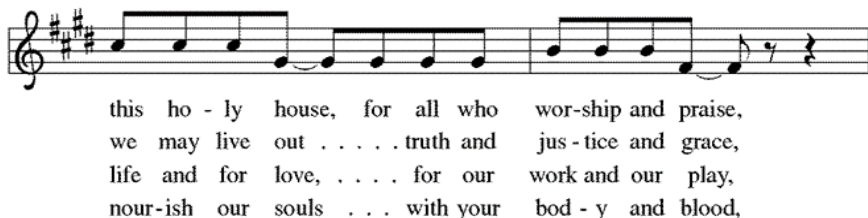
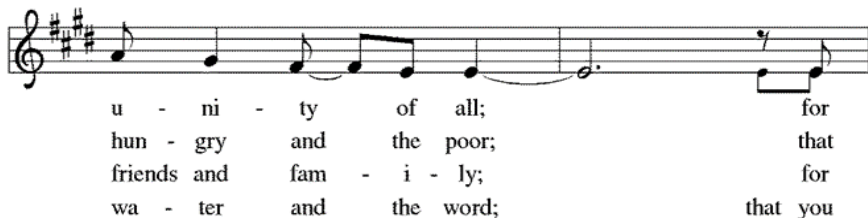
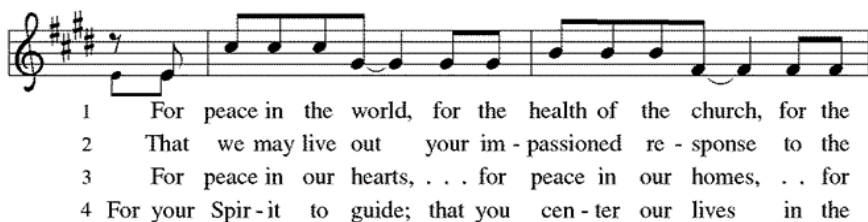
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904  
 Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

**KYRIE** ..... Cantor Sing Verses, All Sing Refrain



# CANTICLE OF PRAISE.....All Sing

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

*Refrain*



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and  
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -  
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.  
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's  
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## SALUTATION

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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

## **FIRST READING**

**Amos 8:4-7**

A reading from the eighth chapter of Amos.

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from the second chapter of first Timothy.

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,


<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16:1-13**

**L** The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

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

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**L** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Congregation is seated.*

**SERMON** ..... Deacon Beka

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Son of God, Eternal Savior. . . . . All Stand & Sing*

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

## 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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

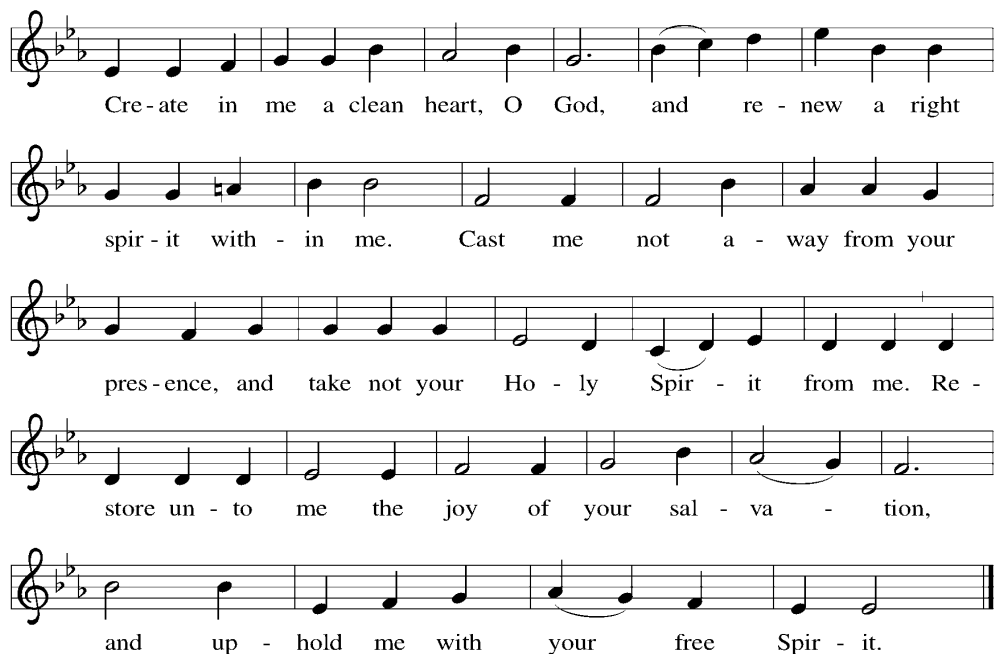
Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**L** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Earth Awake. . . . .Chamber Choir*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create In Me . . . . . All Sing*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L** 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.

## 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.**


### **BLESSING**

**L** 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.

# CLOSING HYMN *Lord, Speak To Us, That We May Speak. . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in  
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the  
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that  
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.  
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.  
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

## SENDING

L Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on Siroe* . . . . . Callahan

\*Special thanks to our Lector, Jim Buell and our Cantor, Greg Byrum

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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