Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 8, 2015

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

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 spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars.
- C Amen.
- P Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

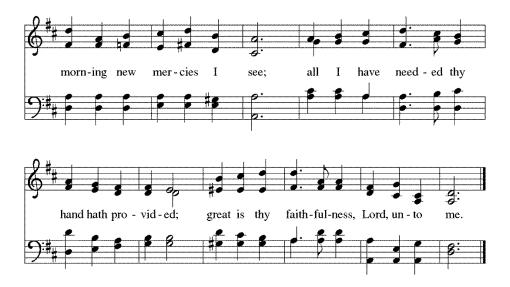
Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P Holy and merciful God,
- C we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.
- P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* All Stand & Sing



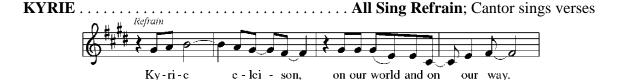


Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957 Text and music © 1923. ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

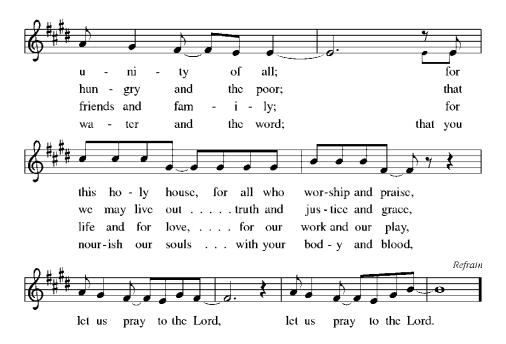
C And also with you.



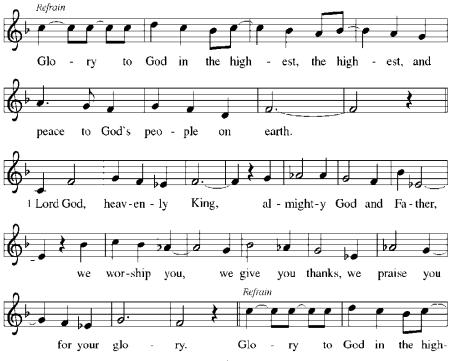




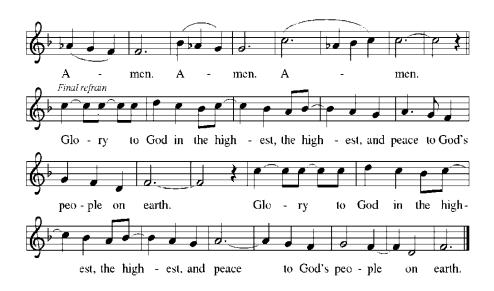
- For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im passioned re sponse to the
- For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



GLORY TO GOD All Sing Refrain and Verses







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Everlasting God,

you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Congregation is seated and 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 nursery.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:21–31

A reading from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah.

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

31but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

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

PSALM: 147:1-11, 20c . . . Read Alternately: Men Read Odd verses, Women read even

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly,

but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

A reading from the ninth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

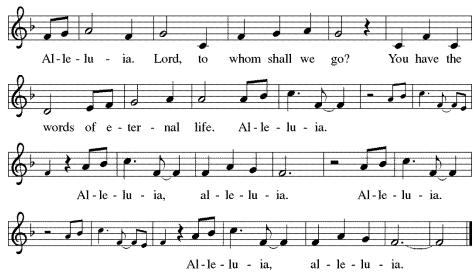
¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Mark 1:29–39

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

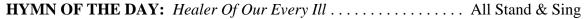
Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

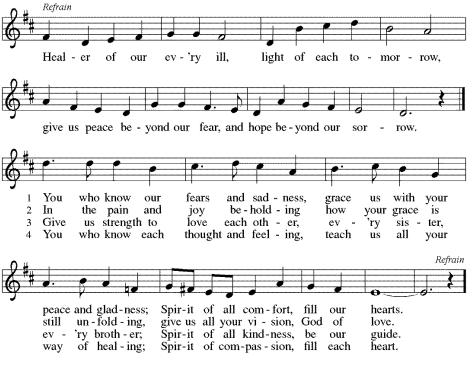
²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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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.

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

PEACE

- The peace of Christ be with you always.
- And also with you. \mathbf{C}

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: As Saints of Old All Stand & Sing



- As saints of old their
- first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and A world in need now sum-mons us la - bor. love, and
- 3 In grat i tude and hum-ble bring our best to day trust we

give:



- God, the all good, the source of boun-teous yield, to giv - er of
- make our life of - fer - ing to God, that all may an
- share your love with all serve your cause and a - long life's way.



to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land, The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true: God, who gave your - self to us Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand. world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new. teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt. Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, deepen your church's commitment to proclaiming the gospel, that many will hear, respond, and share in its blessings. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator of earth's foundations, restore lands, forests, and oceans recovering from natural disasters. Protect and preserve all animals and humans who live in these places. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, rule over the nations and guide their paths toward the fulfillment of your purpose, nurturing the common good, protecting the weak, providing justice, and caring for the needy. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Strength of the powerless, lift up the weary and wounded, give endurance to those whose struggle is unrelenting, heal the sick, and relieve the pain of those who suffer (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Searching God, expand the welcome and witness of this congregation's outreach ministries. We pray for all those served by these ministries, and for all visiting with us today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Unsearchable God, you are always more than we can understand or imagine. Guide us to follow in faith where the saints have led until we join them at your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

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.

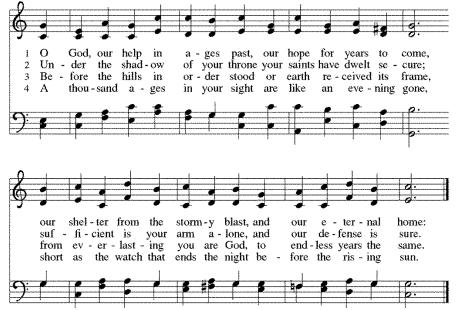
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

P God the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: O God, Our Help In Ages Past. All Stand & Sing



- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: ST, ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION for those who desire it will be offered at the alter after church.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany. 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Tim & Shelia Kelly in honor of Shelia's birthday; and by Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant in memory of Jamie Grimsley.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. *Greg Byrum, Worship & Music*

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 1, 2015:

Attendance: 94 (Met in fellowship hall)

Budget Report	<u>February 1, 2015</u>
Current Offering Received 2/1/2015	\$ 2,963.05
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 23,465.05
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 375.43
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 2,884.12

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Brian Achor **GREETER:** Carmen Buell

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS: NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)
Shelia Kelly + Helper Trudy Whitener & Tyler Ange

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)
Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

CANTOR: Greg Byrum

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams USHERS: Nathan & Amanda Kelly

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 8-14

Today, February 8 Chris Hullander Scott Zander

February 9 Shelia Kelly
Karen Rogers
February 10 Jennipher McLaughlin-Williams

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

February 14 Will Howard Noah Rawlins

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 8

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Church Council meets after worship

HCY leaves for snow tubing

(Must have signed release forms!!)

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir

7:30 pm Worship & Music Comm. meets

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, February 10

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch

Sandra Cline, Guest Speaker

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Tellers Meet Upstairs

Saturday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!



The 25th Annual Congregation Retreat to Isle of Palms

Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3

Contact Greg Cline at 704-860-4460

First come, first served!

February 15 is deadline for your payment!



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise AustinBill & Pauline JoyeBeverly ReynoldsDaniel DowdChase LinebergerGeorge RobersonMonique EstelleHolly PecheMarguerite ShiveFerrie HedrickCarol PoseyDennis TuckerDot HollandMabel Ratchford

Dot Holland Mabel Ratchfo Zac Hullander Mark Reese

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange Stacy Hunsucker Taylor Propst & Family
Paige Beaver Dennis Jordan David Prouty
Jenny Beer Betty Kannapel Anna Rudder
Father Frank Cancro Steven Keating Megan Sigler
Tina Capwell Marshall Kinley E. Taylor & Family

Clell Davis Lance Kirkland Gloria Ward

J. Don Devine Terry Mahaffey Pastor Gary Weant
Poss Garrett Dawn Mitchell Olivia Wilcox

Ronnie Garrison Mark Outlaw Jeff Wiles
Lewis Gilbert Family Alicia Overton Alex Yount

Brian Hedrick Jean Peters

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 inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

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

It's time to remind you of the *Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship* available to members of Holy Comforter.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve your lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others.

The awards will be made once a year from the interest accrued on the endowment. That amount will be distributed equally among accepted applicants who must apply the funds toward tuition or books. Checks will be made out to the applicant's school.

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of April 24th:
 - 1. Your completed application
 - 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 - 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals

The Scholarship Ministry, authorized in January, 1996, by the Church Council, will review your completed application. You will be notified of acceptance of your application in mid-May and an announcement will appear in the church newsletter. To have other questions answered, please call the church office.

You may request an application form via email from the church office by filling in *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

All completed applications along with the required transcript and typed essay must be returned to the church office by the April 24th deadline. Any received after this date will not be considered. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

Best wishes to you in your educational journey. Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Ministry

Pastor Micah will be at a conference Monday-Wednesday.

In case of emergency you may contact Rev. Michael Comer, Pastor of Lutheran Chapel on New Hope Road in Gastonia.

Office: 704-864-6491 Cell: 704-787-6439 email: pastor@lutheranchapelchurch.org

First United Methodist Church in Belmont invites you to:

Spring Children's Clothing Consignment Sale

Saturday, March 7th, from 7-11 am

807 South Point Rd. in Belmont.

There will be a *Half Price* sale from 11:30 – 12:30.

This will be a great opportunity to purchase high quality, gently used children's clothing, toys, bedding, and furniture at bargain prices.

Money raised by the church will support Children's Ministries.

For more information about consigning, contact the church at (704) 825-2106, Lori Hanafin at 704-689-0404 or obtain a registration packet online at www.fumcbelmont.org.

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 Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager