Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • May 29th, 2022 •

Seventh Sunday of Easter



WELCOME/GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

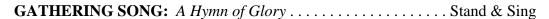
P In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C Amen.





Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623
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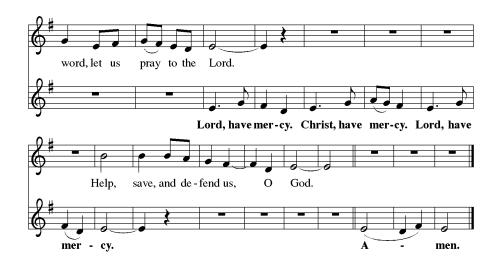
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GREETING

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

KYRIE

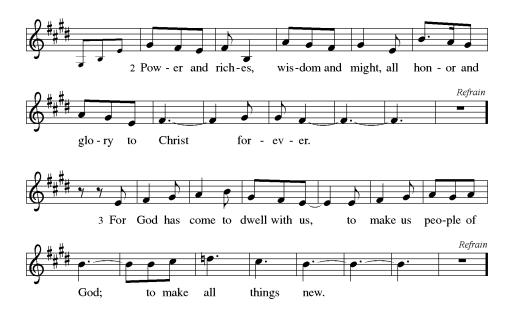




Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen
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CANTICLE OF PRAISE





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SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 16:16-34

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of Acts.

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

6

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

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

A reading from the twenty second chapter of Revelation.

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

¹²"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

life:

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord to whom shall we

go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal

Al - le - lu

ia!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

GOSPEL John 17:20-26

- The holy gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.
- \mathbf{C} Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

Jesus praved: ²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ. \mathbf{C}

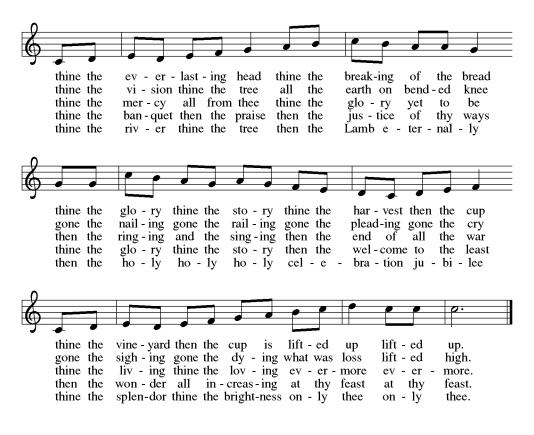
Congregation is seated.

. Deacon Beka

Silence is kept for reflection.



- Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom-ise let there be
- Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the the guest ta - ble we
- Thine the king-dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
- 5 Thine the glo - ry the night no more dy - ing on - ly light in



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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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, make your people one as you and your Son are one. Extend the gifts we have been given by your Spirit to all people, especially those experiencing division or questioning your love. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make worthy the work of scientists who look to the stars and planets, as well as scientists who look to atoms and molecules. Bring innovation and well-being to humanity through their discoveries. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Keep in our minds those who have died in war, both military and civilians. May we honor them by seeking peaceful solutions to the conflicts that arise among nations and peoples. Enfold victims of violence and their families in your loving arms, and bring healing and peace to the turmoil in us that causes us to hurt one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant freedom to all who are overwhelmed by chronic illness, depression, or constant worry. Open them to receive health and salvation in Christ Jesus through the Spirit's gift of faith. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Stir imagination and understanding throughout the church in the work of poets, theologians, and hymnwriters. Lead us into new visions and fresh expressions of your presence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Unite us with the saints who have died and been raised in Jesus. Train us to wait with eager longing for Christ to come again, even as we sense his presence with us now. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Love You From an Old Rugged Cross* Solo

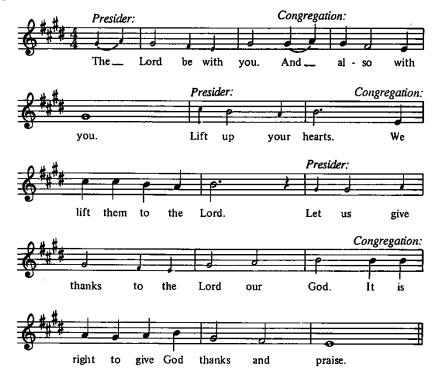


OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



PREFACE

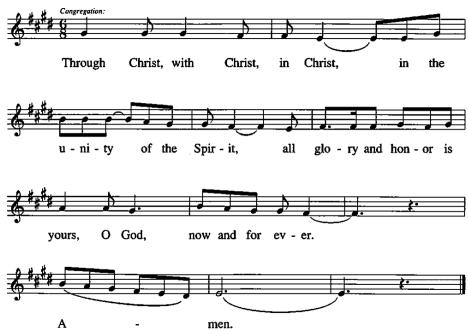
P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.



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,

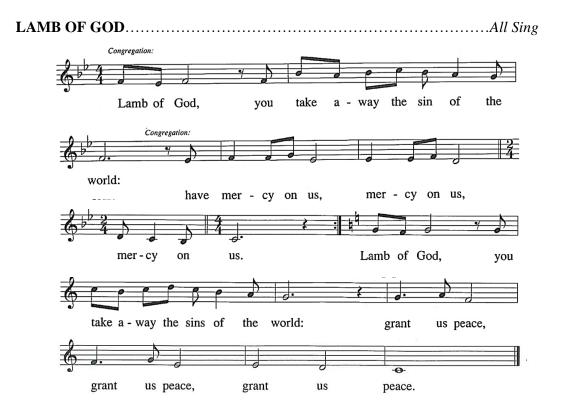
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.

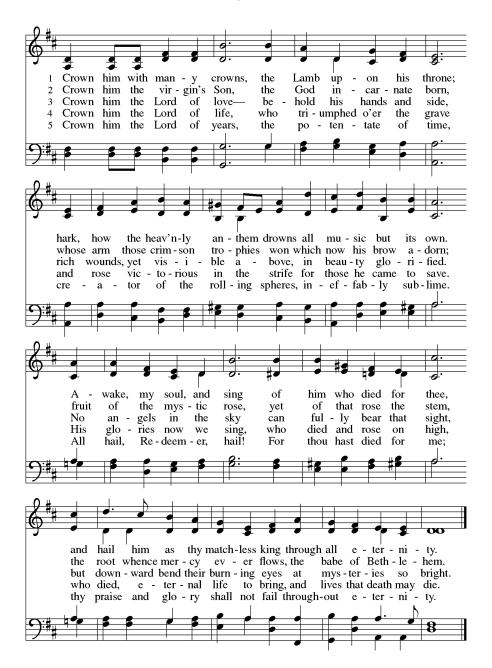
- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
- C We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

- P God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, + bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.
- C Amen.



SENDING

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P Go in peace. Tell what God has done.
- C Thanks be to God.

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Special Thank you to Don Robinson, Soloist, and to our Lector, Ashley Hyman.

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