

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • September 11, 2022 •

## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Let Us Enter In*

*Church Choir*

### 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.

## GATHERING SONG: *God Bless the Hands*

Stand & Sing



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and  
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied  
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give  
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -  
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your  
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we  
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.  
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.  
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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## GREETING

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

C And also with you.

# KYRIE

Leader




In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.


Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



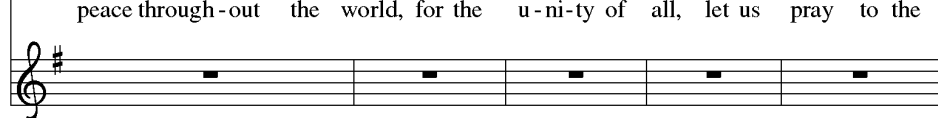
For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.




peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the





Lord.

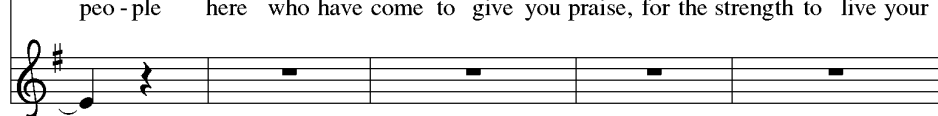
For your



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

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

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## SALUTATION

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

## FIRST READING

**Exodus 32:7-14**

A reading from the thirty-second chapter of Exodus.

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup>And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**

A reading from First Timothy, the first chapter.

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE

*All Stand & Sing*

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL

**Luke 15:1-10**

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

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

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

*Congregation is seated.*

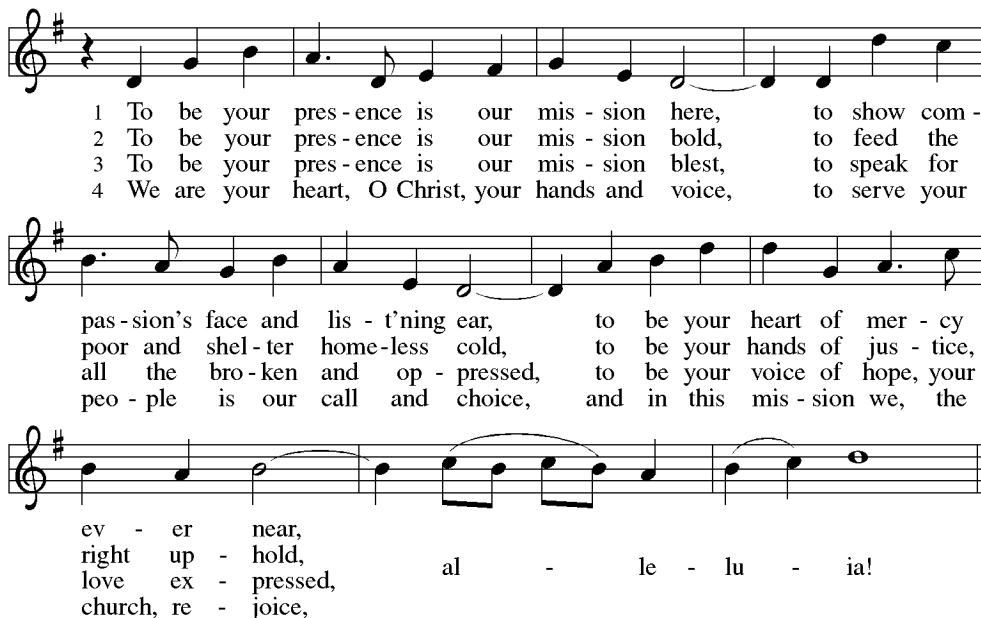
**SERMON** ..... Pastor Micah

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



## HYMN OF THE DAY: *To Be Your Presence*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
 2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
 3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
 poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
 all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
 peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,  
 right up - hold,  
 love ex - pressed,  
 church, re - joice,

al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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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**

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists, and caregivers (We pray especially for...) God of restoration, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth, and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or under served. God of wisdom, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service projects of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands (especially). Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth, **hear us when we call.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Let Us Enter In*

*All Sing*

*Congregation stands on final verse*



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.  
 2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.  
 3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.  
 Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.  
 Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.  
 Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.  
 Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.  
 Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.  
 sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: LET US ENTER IN, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1983 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into sections for the Presider and the Congregation. The Presider's parts are on the first, third, and fifth staves, while the Congregation's parts are on the second, fourth, and fifth staves. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise."

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. And also with

*Congregation:* you. Lift up your hearts. We

*Presider:* lift them to the Lord. Let us give

*Congregation:* thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

*Congregation:*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the  
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is  
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.  
A - men.

## **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** Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

**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.

# LAMB OF GOD.....All Sing

*Congregation:*

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

*Congregation:*

world:

have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Come Now, You Blessed*

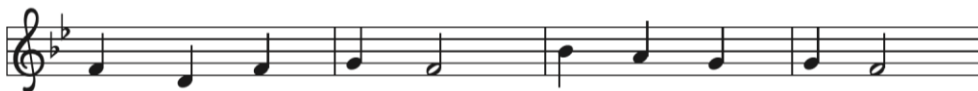
*All Sing*



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,  
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
 What have we done that you call us your own?  
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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Music © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray.

**C** God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



## **BLESSING OF OUR WORK**

P Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we are sent out in service to others.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people. Bless those who go out from here to labor in your name. Prosper the work of their hands. Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor, and may those who are sent receive blessing in return. May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

**C Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P Siblings in Christ, both our work and our rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

**C I will, and I ask God to help me.**

P Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN: *Go to the World*

Stand & Sing



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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## SENDING

**P** Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE: *Recessional in D*

Johnson

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\*Thank you to our lector, Jan Buell.

\*Special thanks to Julia Gunter, our resident flutist, accompanying our service of worship.



**"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](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster