

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • July 25, 2021

## The Ninth Sunday after the Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

**GATHERING:** *Come Now You Blessed (See page 15).....Church Choir*  
*(All are invited to sing along with the recording)*

**WELCOME:**

**PRELUDE:** *Fanfare for a New Day .....Kerr*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

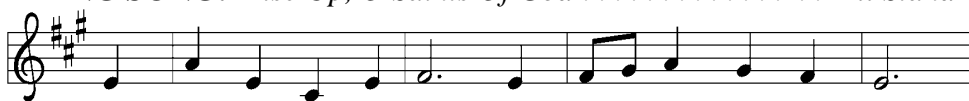
P God, our provider,

**C help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Rise Up, O Saints Of God . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
 stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
 and, quick-ened by the Spir-it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

## 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

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.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE.....All Sing



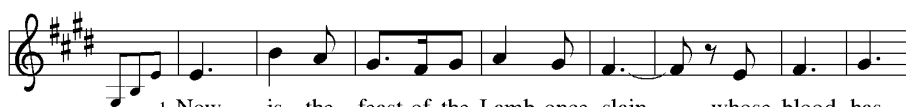
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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.



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



God; to make all things new.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **FIRST READING**

**2 Kings 4:42-44**

A reading from 2 Kings, the fourth chapter.

*Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.*

<sup>42</sup>A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." <sup>43</sup>But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.' " <sup>44</sup>He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

A reading from of Ephesians, the third chapter.

*We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.*

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL VERSE:** .....*All Stand and 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

**John 6:1-21**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A

large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

<sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *How Firm A Foundation . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

## 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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations.

Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Grant healing and comfort to the sick and suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.  
Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*Remain standing for the communion liturgy.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**A** Jesus, Bread of life,  
**C** **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.**  
**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

## PREFACE

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

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.....All Sing**

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.

## THROUGH CHRIST .....All Sing

*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 has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!  
C Thanks be to God.



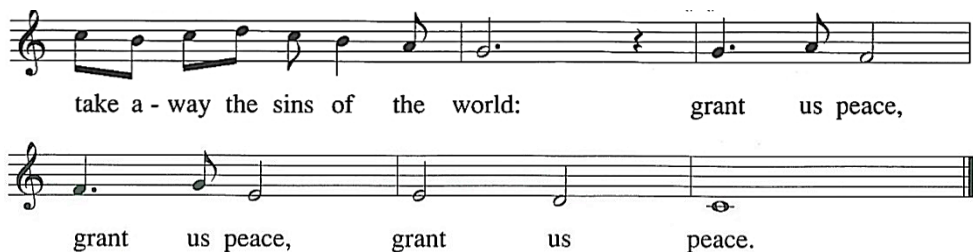
## COMMUNION

*During Communion we will be dismissed by rows, starting in the front. You will receive the elements from the table by the door, and take them to your car to eat. We will finish the worship liturgy and be dismissed there. You may stand outside your car or be seated inside. You should be able to hear the worship leader through your radio on 89.5 fm.*

## LAMB OF GOD.....All Sing

Musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The second staff contains the melody for 'world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,'. The third staff contains the melody for 'mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. There are repeat signs and a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world:  
have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



**POSTLUDE:** *Trumpet Fanfare* .....*Helman*

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

**C** **Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Jesus, Bread of life,

**C** **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

**A** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

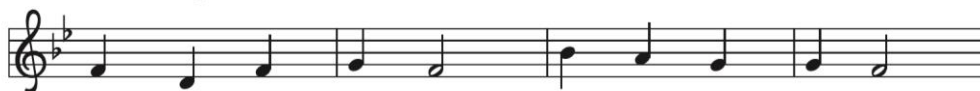
# GATHERING: *Come Now You Blessed.....Church Choir*



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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**\*\*Altar Flowers given by Jill Cassell; "Happy Birthday Tyler! Love Mom and Erin."**

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# Holy Doodles



## **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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