

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • August 18, 2019 •

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Voluntary* G. Young

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever

C Amen.

P Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us ☩ all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Faith of Our Fathers* All Stand & Sing

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro-claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

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

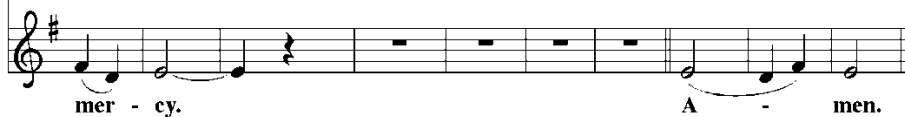
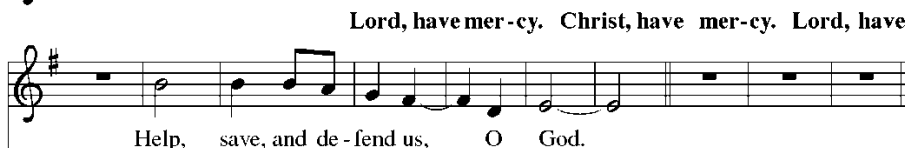
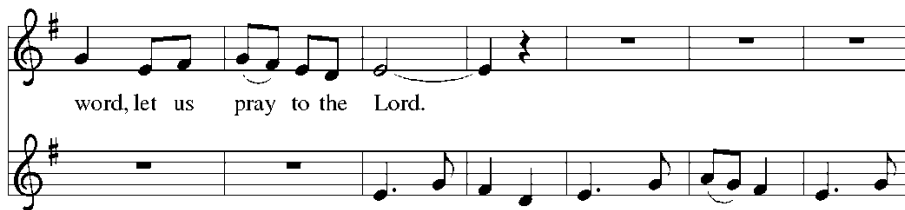
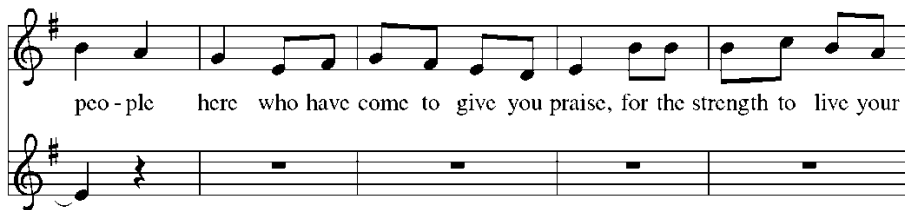
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord.

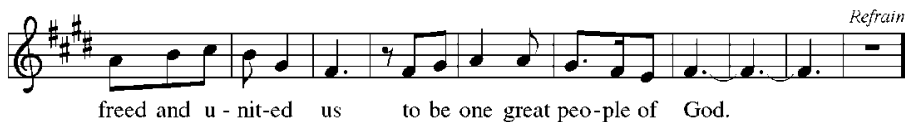
For your

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

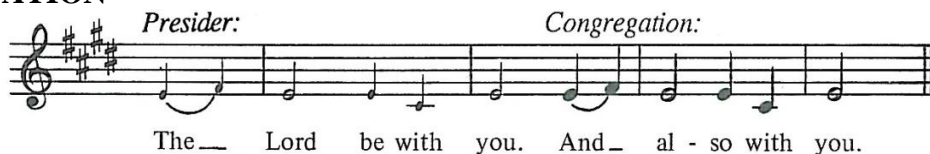


CANTICLE OF PRAISE





SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, 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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the twenty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

A reading from the eleventh & twelfth chapters of Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

A The word of the Lord.

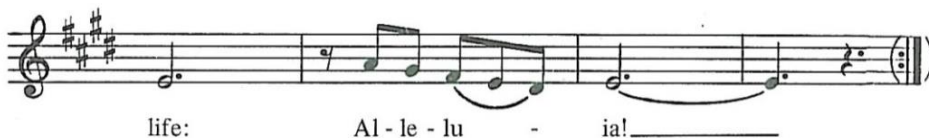
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

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

go? ____ You have the words of e - ter - nal



GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

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

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

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is

completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you,

but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”



P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Congregation is seated.

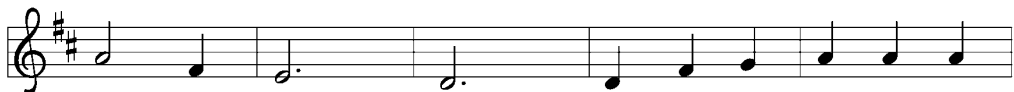
SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* All Stand & Sing



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you have given us your word. Like a fire, kindle its flame within and among us. Empower us for the work of breaking down walls, reconciling the divided, and building faith. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You formed the furthest reaches of the universe, yet your spirit dwells within each life. Be the companion and keeper of every creature, and redeem all your creation in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You rise up to rule the nations. Bless grassroots movements and guide elected officials. Teach the nations to be good neighbors to each other. Inspire us all to share food, land, knowledge, and our arts for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You rescue those in any need. Be with surgeons, nurses, and all medical personnel who care for the sick (*especially*). Shelter all who need homes and feed all who are hungry. Comfort those who are bereaved. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We thank you for the friendship, community, and witness of those gathered here today. Send us out to welcome those estranged from family or experiencing difficult separations. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Be with us in the tragedies and troubles of this world, and join us and all the saints with Christ in perfect joy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

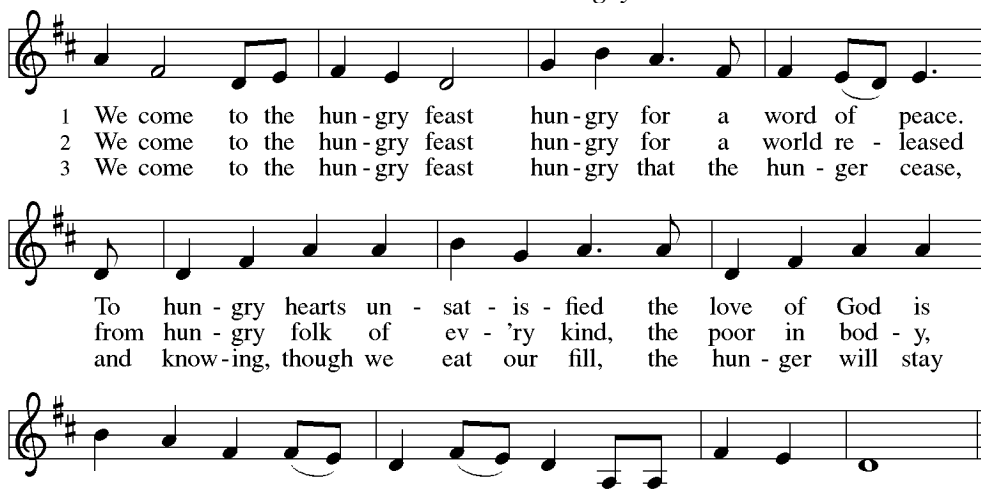
PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY: *O Praise the Lord, Hallelujah* (Jewish Folk Tune) Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *We Come to the Hungry Feast All Stand & Sing*



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

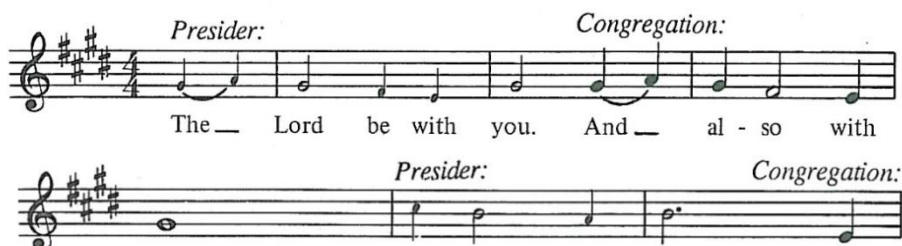
Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



President: *Congregation:*

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

President: *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 -

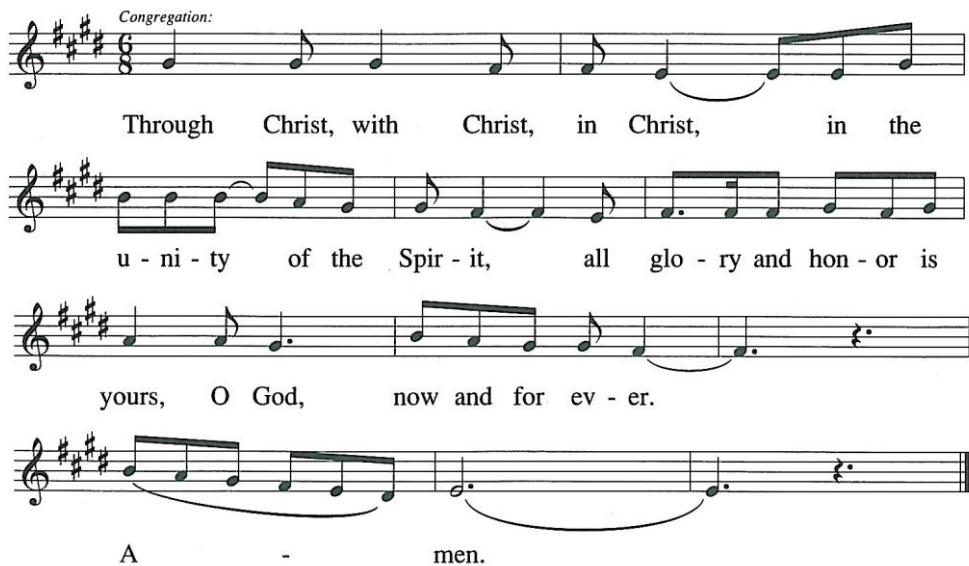
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

THROUGH 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

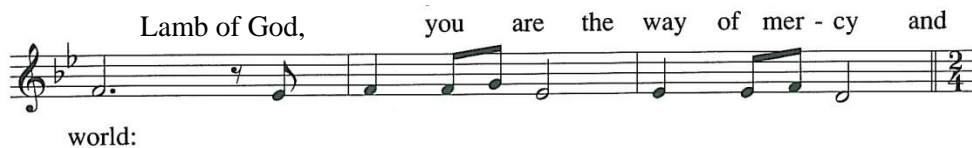
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

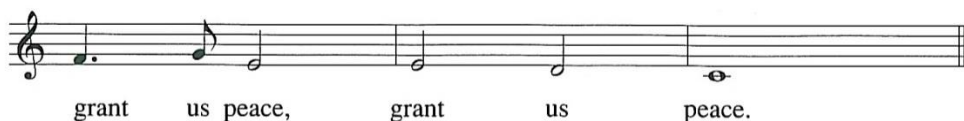
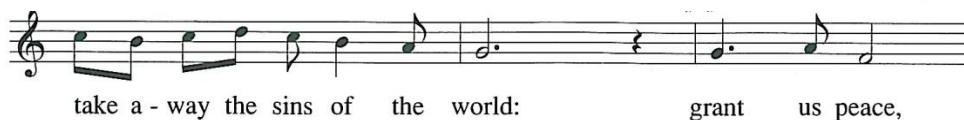
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



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

love:



COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* All Sing



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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 O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

C Amen.

SENDING 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 - gulf's 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
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**. 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.

CHILDREN 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 in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Sheila & Tim Kelly in honor of Grayson's birthday; and by Jo & Harold Singleton in honor of Kristen Bunney's birthday.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 11, 2019:

Attendance: 108

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 2,919.00	\$184,776.77	547.63
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$184,340.66	(111.52)
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 2,855.35)</u>	<u>\$ 436.11</u>	<u>436.11</u>

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 8/11/19

Goal: \$225,000
 Received to Date: 162,157
 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000
 Remaining Needed: \$ 27,843

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Pat Long**ACOLYTE:** Merritt De Nicholas**TELLERS:** Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener**CRUCIFER:** Matthew Carr**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Jane Howard**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Katie Howard, Captain

Dean & Diann Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Melissa McGinnis & Pat Speck

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers**FLUTE:** Julia Gunter

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: August 18-24

Today, August 18 Katie Baker
Henry Bocchino
Alex Bocchino
Grayson Kelly



August 21 Andrew Robinson
August 22 Becke Featherstone
Allison Wallace

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**Today, Sunday, August 18**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
6:00 pm Church Choir reunion rehearsal

Tuesday, August 20

6:00 pm Worship & Music meets
7:00 pm Christian Ed (upstairs)
1st classroom on right
Nar-Anon



Our Church Choir will meet today at 6:00 pm
for our annual reunion rehearsal.

Lots of new material will keep us busy for
months to come.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Shirley Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Merritt De Nicholas
Becke Featherstone

Ellen Fleming
Sarah Tench Helms
Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Mike Barbee
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy

Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

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



Eat Better Breakfasts. Study after study touts the importance of eating a nutritious and satisfying breakfast. Skipping breakfast is linked to weight gain because long stretches (overnight) without food slow metabolism and trigger late-night overeating. And, it's a missed opportunity to deliver key nutrients that are powerful for brain health and alertness throughout the day. Lean protein like yogurt, milk, cheese, soymilk, eggs or beans help you feel alert and satiated. Avoid sugary breakfasts, which offer a quick rush followed by an energy crash. Aim for a balanced combination of fruit, whole grains, lean protein and plant-based fat such as a bowl of berries, toasted oats, nonfat yogurt and sliced almonds. If a need for speed (as in 'I'm running late!') drives you in the morning, try things like instant oatmeal or muesli cereal. Whatever you do, don't skip breakfast! And with school just starting, remember to see that your children get a good breakfast, too! Those little brains need fuel after a long sleep to help them learn better!

WWG participants – last week we went through Fort Worth, TX and ended up resting in Shreveport, LA...4,281 miles total! We are more than halfway back home and only have three weeks left so keep up the good work!





Holy Doodles



NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.



Teachers Needed! Pre-K thru Adult
To volunteer contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org

A signup sheet for volunteer Sunday School Teachers
is available in the narthex.

For any questions that you may have contact Beka.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street 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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse