Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 18, 2013

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: * Awake, My Soul, and Sing.. (Notes on page 21).......... Allen Pote

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, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Just and gracious God,
- C we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
- P The apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross. "Jesus says to you, + "Your sins are forgiven. "Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Beautiful Savior. All Stand & Sing



GREETING

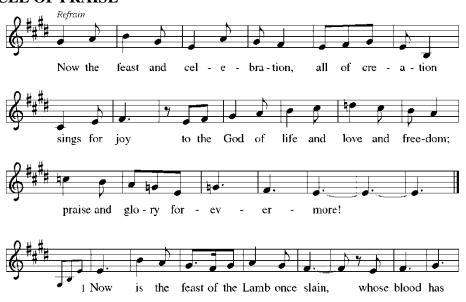
- P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

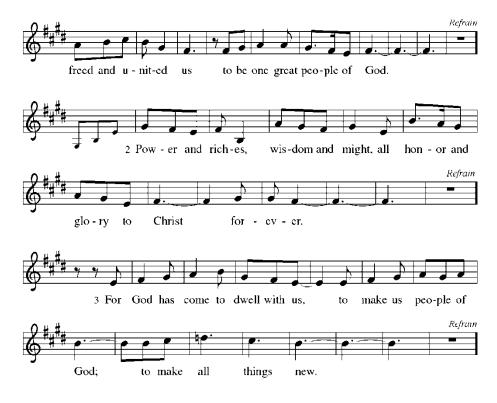
KYRIE





CANTICLE OF PRAISE





Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and music © 1990 G1A Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 890.442.3358, All 1ghs reserved. Used by permission.

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.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

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 near by, 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.

Chapter 11

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.

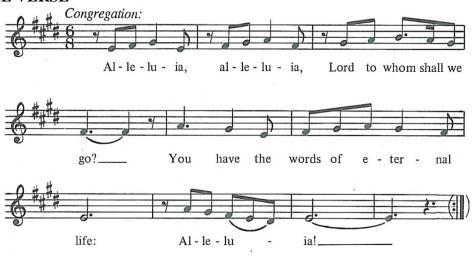
Chapter 12

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



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.

⁴⁹I 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.

SERMON: "Spiritual Tough Love"... (Notes pages 22-23)................ Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY: How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord All Stand & Sing

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call To live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored, That you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; If worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind Its tangled skein of care; our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints become in hindrances more sure; Whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name, And by our faults obscure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, In old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you, The cross you hung upon, all you endeavored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty Father, send the fire of your word to cleanse and refine your church, and shine the light of the gospel to all the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, bring your cooling and refreshing breath into the world's parched places; protect the very young and the old, the earth's fragile habitats, and all that is vulnerable to the heat. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, all the nations belong to you; give justice to the weak and the orphan, and rescue the needy. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, keep safe all those in the paths of destructive wind or water; heal those afflicted by poor living conditions; be near to all who are suffering. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Faithful God, lead our congregation through times of strife and division; tend and nourish the vine of our faith that we may bear much fruit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, fulfill your promise to those who have run with perseverance the race, and at the last join us with that great cloud of witnesses before your everlasting throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

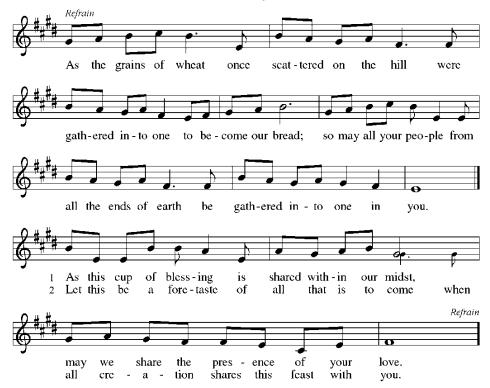
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM: Give Glory to God in the Highest . . . from "Land and Seasons"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: As The Grains of Wheat All Stand & Sing



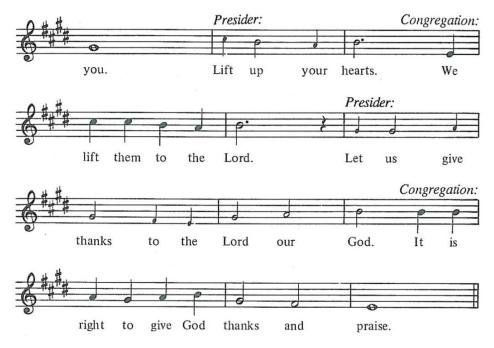
OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

HE GREAT THANKSGIVING

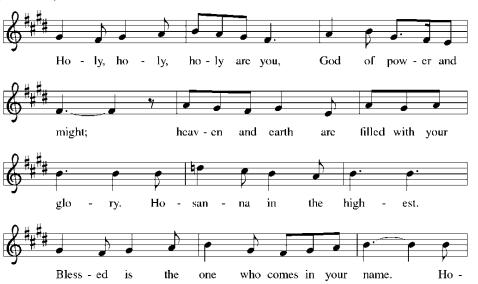




PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

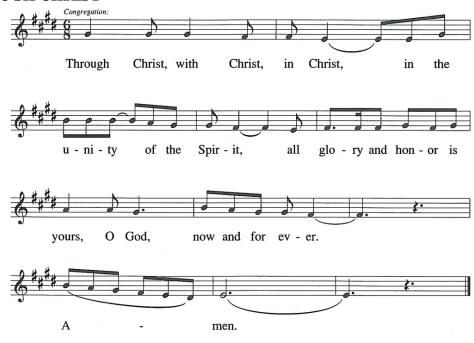




THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

THROUGH 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;

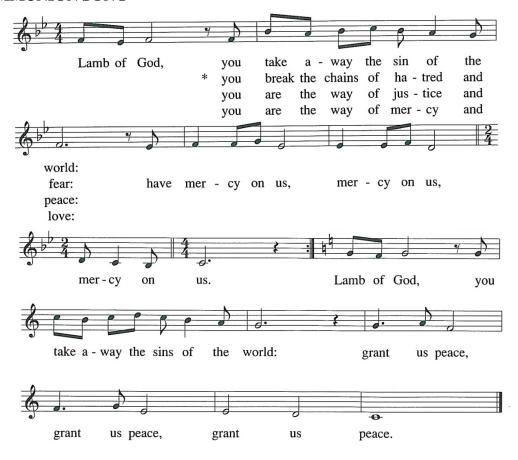
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.
- C Thanks be to God.

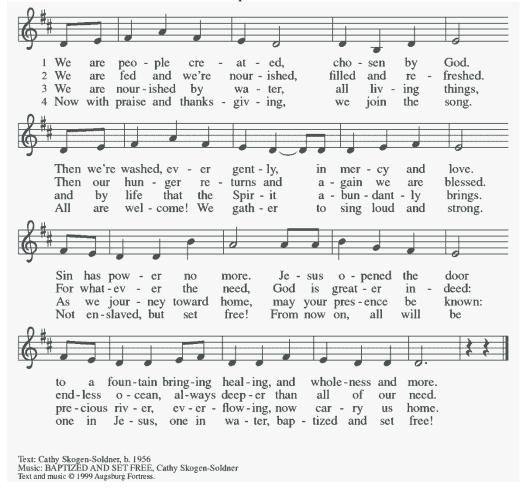
COMMUNION SONG



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: Baptized and Set Free All Sing



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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Generous God,

C so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Oh, Sing to the Lord* All Stand & Sing



DISMISSAL

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

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Thirteenth 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 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. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Lynn Martin in honor of Jennipher & Doug McLaughlin-Williams' 1st wedding anniversary; and by Brian & Lucy Mitchell in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music Committee

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 11, 2013:

Attendance: 131

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 8/11/13

Total Current Offering, Y-T-D (1/1/13-8/11/13) Expenses, Year-To-Date

August 11, 2013

\$ 3,665.50 \$146,029.32

\$128,848.83

The Current Offering Received for the year through August 11, 2013 is \$17,180.49 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Charles Mauney

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin

Gage Gatlin

CRUCIFERS: Wil Carpenter

Cody Koehler

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Barbara Kasmer Gayla Foscue

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Sherry Alexander Charles Mauney

Fran Holland Dee Smith

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Need Volunteers

Tuesday, August 20

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

GREETERS: Need Volunteers USHERS: Courtney Gatlin

Denise Wiegand

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, August 18

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service with **Holy Communion** 4:00 pm **HCY** Back-To-School Party & Swim

Meet at the Carr's home. Bring swim suit, towel and an appetite!

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Adult Handbells <u>Saturday, August 24</u>

6:00 pm Church Choir 9:30 am Adult *Holy Play Day* 8:00 pm Nar-Anon Meet in fellowship hall

Next Sunday, August 25 is RALLY DAY!

9:30 am Meet in the fellowship hall for breakfast. Then meet and greet the teachers and go over the theme for the new Sunday School season.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 18-24

Today, August 18 Katie Baker Henry & Alex Bocchino Cindy Braddy

Daphne Hassen

August 21 Lynn Martin Andrew Robinson August 22 Becke Featherstone Allison Wallace

The Call Committee is now in the process of receiving names for Pastoral Candidates. If anyone in the congregation has someone they would like to nominate for consideration, the forms are available in the church office and should be returned to me.

The Call Committee welcomes your suggestion of possible candidates. Only a member of the clergy roster for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America may be nominated. All ELCA pastors with the exception of our interim pastors, John Propst and Jack & Linda McHenry are eligible.

The Call Committee will take all nominations seriously and share appropriate names with the office of the Bishop. If the nominee is from a synod other than NC, our bishop will obtain clearances from the nominee's synod. It is strongly suggested that the first contact with the nominee be made by his or her bishop. Also, due to the call process and confidentiality, please know that there may be no direct response.

The Call Committee appreciates your input and if you have any questions, please let Faithfully yours, John Crist, Call Committee Chair us know.





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Wesley Ashe Gayla Foscue Lee Ireland
Louise Austin Ferrie Hedrick Chase Lineberger
Virginia P. Crump Richard Holden Liz Propst
Daniel Dowd Zac Hullander

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam Ramona J. Sinclair Kathy Helton Betty Fox Dale Burris Rose Strait Betty Kannapel Ceci Colbert **Buck Weatherford** Joyce Davis Paul Outlaw Junior Westmorland Brian Hedrick Jean Peters Beverly F. Wall Gloria Ward Ms. Frankie Hedrick Taylor Propst & Family



OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll (Honduras) Jason Gardner Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex.

*The Prelude "Awake, My Soul, and Sing" is a new anthem release. It is offered today in organ improvisation form. The Church Choir will begin work on this wonderful anthem this evening at 6:00 pm. The Festive Trumpet highlights the main theme of the melody.

"Spiritual Tough Love"

Luke 12:49-56

"Then Jesus turned to the crowd: 'When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, 'Storm's coming'—and you're right. And when the wind comes out of the south, you say, 'This'll be a hot one'—and you're right. Frauds! You know how to tell a change in the weather, so don't tell me you can't tell a change in the season, the God-season we're in right now."

(Luke 12:54-56 from *The Message*)

"Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

(Matthew 22:34-40 Today's NIV)



Love God

Love others

(flip the page for some "homework" to work on)

Questions to Spiritually ponder this week – applying God's Word:

Can I open my ears & my heart to hear the WHOLE Gospel, not just the parts that I can easily accept?"

If I am not asking myself *that* question, I might wonder if I'm truly a disciple, a follower of Jesus.

And if I *am* asking myself that question, what am I going to do about it? Use Jesus' recipe for life. Love God. Love others.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 <u>holycomforter@gmail.com</u>

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Adult Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

John Propst, Interim Pastor; email: JohnCPropst@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager