Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street
 Belmont, NC 28012
 November 26, 2017

Christ The King Sunday



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Saint Anne Variations...... Ashdown

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

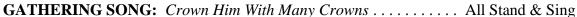
All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.
- C Amen.
- P One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P O God, our merciful redeemer,
- C we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for \pm his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

C Amen.





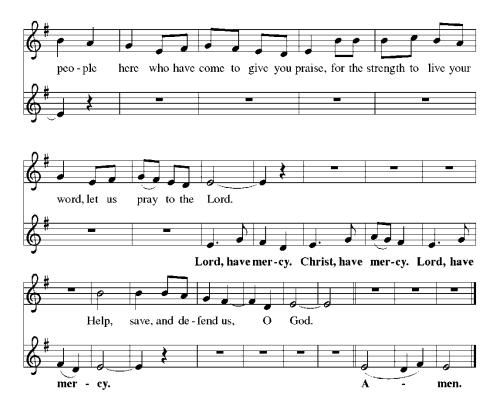
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

GREETING

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

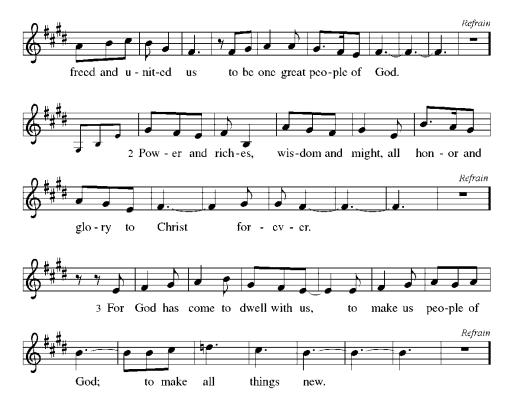
KYRIE





CANTICLE OF PRAISE





SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is seated and are 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 nurseries.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from the thirty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel.

Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GoD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GoD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

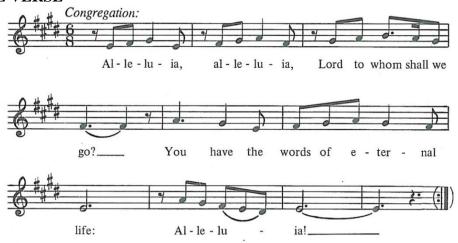
A reading from the first chapter of Ephesians.

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

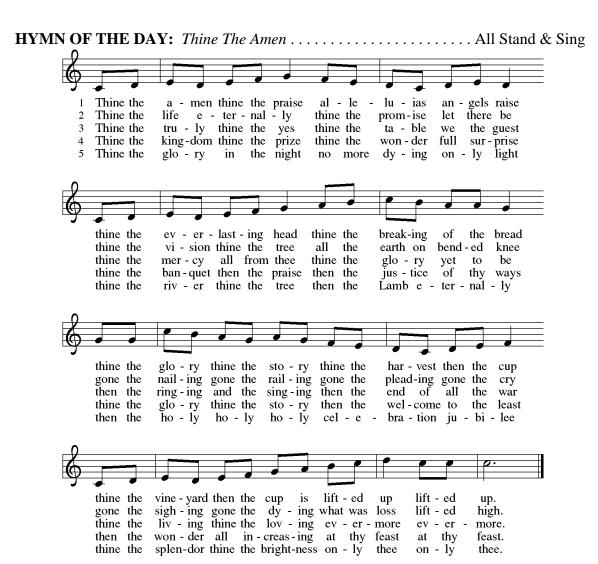
- P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. '44Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

SERMON Pastor Micah



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world. As we gather for worship in safety, we pray for places where the church is persecuted. Watch over your people as they witness to your good news. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give bountiful pastures, safety, and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife. Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers to seek the lost and provide safety. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill (*especially*). Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst. Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and despairing throughout the ages. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

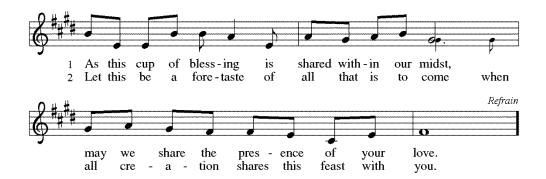
Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

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





Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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.

on earth as it is in heave

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.

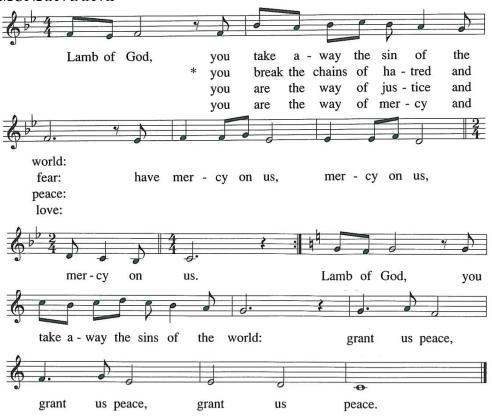
l ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

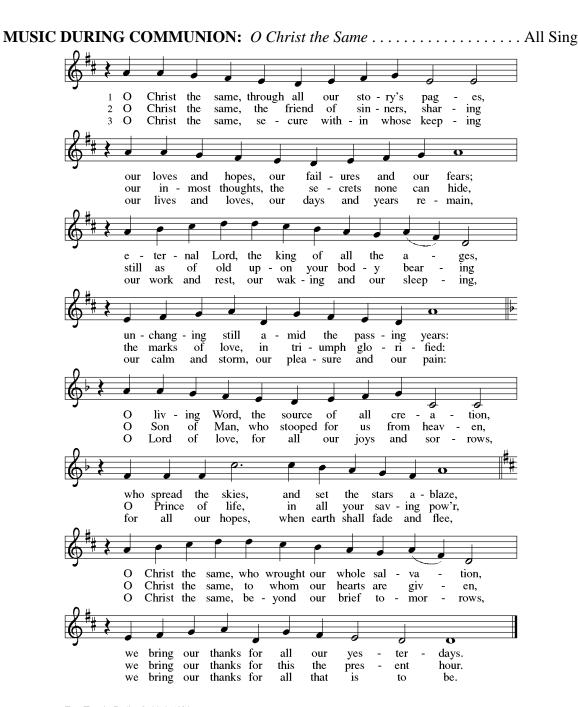
- P Hunger no more. Thirst no more. Come to the banquet of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

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.



- 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 Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

- P The love of God surround you; the grace of + Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.
- C Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

SENDING

- A Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this Christ The King Sunday. 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. Nurseries for children (infants through 3 years old) are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> 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.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 19, 2017:

Attendance: 109 **Budget Report** November 19, 2017 Year-to-Date Offering 5,712.00 \$ 241,369.93 Expenses 5,656.42 \$ 251,335.15 Offering less Expenses 55.58 9,965.22) **Budgeted Expenses** \$ 260,453.75 Offering less Budgeted Expenses 19,083.82) **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

LECTOR: Billy Joye **GREETER:** Pat Long

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny

Volunteers Potter

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4) CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Carmen Buell, Captain Krystyna Sarrazin

Dean & Diann Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Infants: Staff; Toddlers: Volunteers **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: USHERS: Volunteers

Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: November 26-December 2

Today, November 26 Isabella Ince

November 27 Sue Lahr November 29 Rick Neagle Madison Kelly December 1

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, November 26

9:00 am Handbells

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Congregational Thanksgiving Meal

Children's Ens. after lunch, Decorate church for Advent

6:00 pm Church Choir

The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like. 30,000 + youth will gather in Houston. We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.

> There are 213 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, November 29

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

BCO November Items of the Month



PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual *Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign*. Peanut butter is something all food banks need. The collection of jelly was added because we were all once children, and we fondly remember peanut butter & jelly sandwiches as a staple of a happy childhood.

Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall. Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county.

The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.





Sunday School Attendance November 19, 2017

Preschool 5 Seekers 7
Elementary 6 Adults 6
Middle School 1 Total: 25





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Jack Tench Beverly Reynolds Kathie Schaumburg Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett Brandi Hager John McDermid Clarence McLain Jennifer Lineberger

Anne Murdy Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates



Beau Carroll

OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

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.



It is with great joy that HolyC has a Christmas float in the Belmont Christmas Parade. HolyC's float has room for 10 riders. Email Beka at rforst@holyc.org to sign a waiver to ride. First come, first served.











Your Name:	
Telephone Number:	_ Email:
In Honor of:	
In Memory Of:	
To the Glory of God:	
Number of poinsettias ordered:	Total cost @ \$15 each:
Payment by check:	Payment by cash:

Remember to add **\$15 for each** poinsettia ordered. Payment must be attached to order form.

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 10th. You may give your order form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

Please indicate on your check that it is for a poinsettia order.

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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager