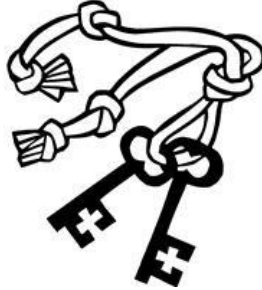


Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • August 27, 2023 •

13th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *A Morning Trumpet*

Harbach

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, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ.

C Amen

GATHERING SONG: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

All Stand & Sing



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

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.

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

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

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

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

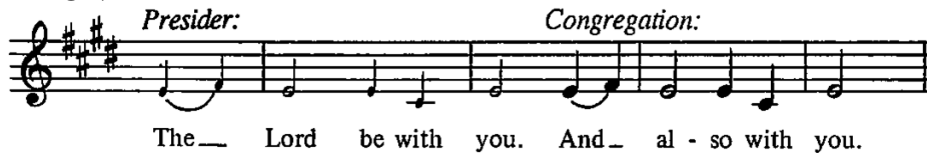
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



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SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the fifty-first chapter of Isaiah.

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts

that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

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

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I

tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

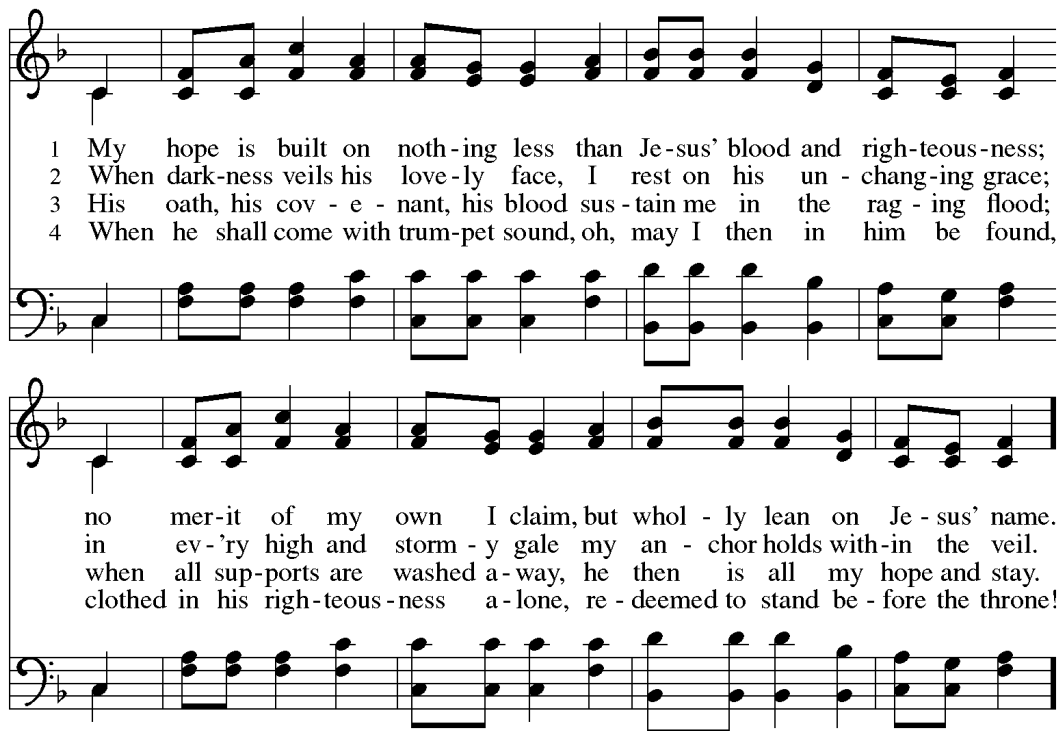
Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

All Stand & Sing



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous - ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand*

Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As the Grains of Wheat*

All Stand & Sing

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

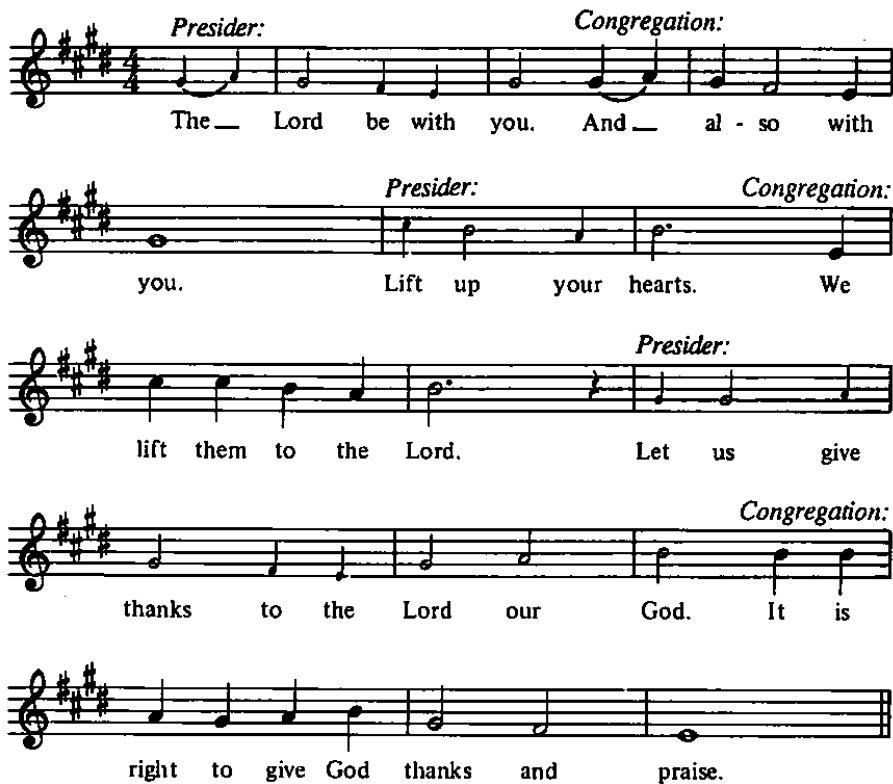
OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And also with

Presider: *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.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a key signature change to two sharps (F#, C#). The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is marked 'Congregation:' and has a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

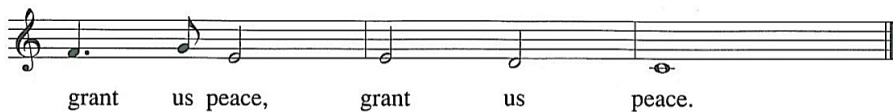
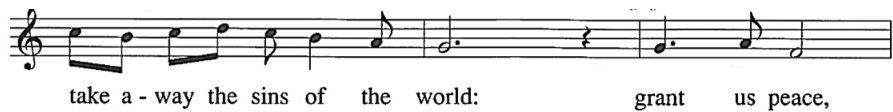
P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.
C Thanks be to God.

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 return to your pew to eat and drink, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.

LAMB OF GOD

All Sing



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Faith of Our Fathers*

All 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 thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

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 We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep,
and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *We All Are One In Mission*

All Stand & Sing



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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SENDING

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Day of Delight*

Gastoldi

*Special thanks to our Lector, Ashley Hyman and our Flutist, Julia Gunter.

* The altar flowers were given by Shelia Kelly in honor of Graham's birthday & Nathan and Amanda's Anniversary.

This Weeks Schedule:

Sunday, August 27th

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

6:00 pm – Church Choir

Wednesday, August 30th

6:30 pm – Dinner Church



"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

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