

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • August 29, 2021

## The Fourteenth Sunday after the Pentecost



**GATHERING:** *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*.....Pelz

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Creation*.....Callahan

### 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.*

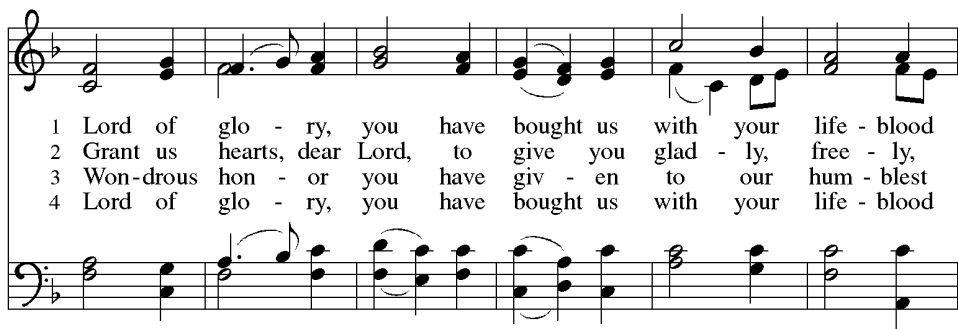
P God, our provider,

**C help us.**

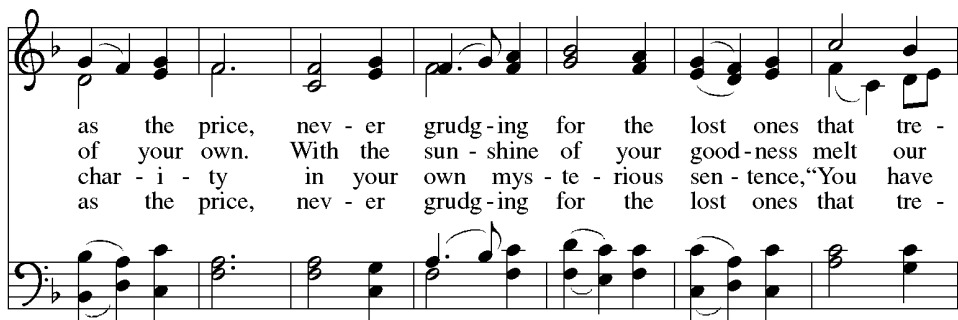
**It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with 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: *Lord Of Glory*. . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -  
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our  
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have  
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en  
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,  
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—  
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful  
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py  
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your  
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.  
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*The presiding minister addresses parents:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Asa Lynn Gross baptized into Christ?

*Response:*

I do.

As you bring Asa to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:  
to live with her among God's faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that Asa may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Asa grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:*

I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Asa by praying for her in her new life in Christ?

**C We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

P Asa Lynn Gross, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

P Sustain Asa with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P Asa Lynn Gross, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

A reading from Deuteronomy, the fourth chapter.

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**James 1:17-27**

A reading from James, the first chapter.

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere,

being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Mark 7:1-8, 21-23

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied



rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *To Be Your Presence* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,  
right up - hold,  
love ex - pressed, al - le - lu - ia!  
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, osp, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The musical score is written for a four-part dialogue. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The first staff is for the Presider, followed by the Congregation, then the Presider, then the Congregation, and finally the Presider. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.'

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And also with you.

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

## 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.



**LAMB OF GOD.....All Sing**

*Congregation:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

*Congregation:*



world:

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



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## 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.*

**POSTLUDE:** *Trumpet Voluntary*.....J.S. Bach

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.**

\* A special thanks to our lector, Alan Hyman.

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

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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse



## Holy Doodles

