Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • March 31, 2019

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

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, \pm one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.
- C Amen.
- P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection.

- P God at the margins,
- C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.
- P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of + Christ, leading you from death into life.

C Amen

GATHERING SONG: What Wondrous Love Is This All Stand & Sing



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt. Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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





SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 nursery.

FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the fifth chapter of Joshua.

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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



PSALM: 32 Men sing Odd verses, **Women Even**

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,

and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away, because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble; you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

8"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go; I will guide you | with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;

but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

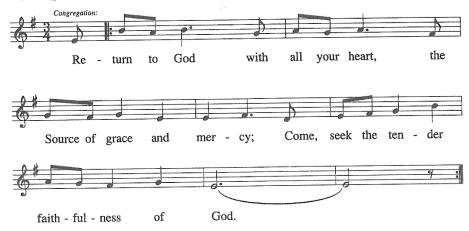
A reading from the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

- P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired



hands." ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And

they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: Our Father, We Have Wandered All Stand & Sing (Members of the Children's Ensemble will come to the balcony during the singing of this hymn.)



Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
Text from Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of abundant grace, guide your church to look upon people as you look upon them, with compassion and as deserving of mercy. Shape us to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bestow dignity on migrant and seasonal farm and factory workers. When the time comes for them to leave jobs, provide new ways for them to make a livelihood. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire musicians and poets to point to your unfathomable beauty and creativity. Enhance our vision of your holiness through their works. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Protect and preserve all people who look to you to be their refuge (*especially*). Be their respite from trouble, and give them hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Erase the pain of trauma and the shame and stigma of social contempt. Change the hearts of those who bully or mistreat others, and heal broken relationships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Invite your whole company of saints into eternal, joyful feasting. When we question your abundant mercy, soften our hearts to receive the gifts of faith and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

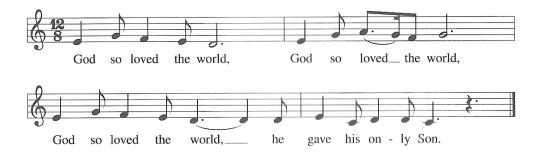
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Refrain - choir

God so loved the world, God so loved the world, God so loved the world, he gave his only Son.

1. A Son to shine on our darkness, a light to cast out despair, He comes to take away evil, and in his light we have life!

Refrain - All



2. And everyone who believes will have eternal life. Lord, lifted up, we come to you with wonder, thanks, and praise.

Refrain - All

- 3. Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love, let all who seek you rejoice. Deliver us from distress and lead us forth in joy.
- 4. Do not live in fear. Called to life arise! Turn away from sin. O come, Lord, enter in.

Refrain - sung twice by all

God So Loved the World, by Thomas Keesecker, ISBN 978-0-8006-9763-8 Copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for congregational use, but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice.

OFFERING PRAYER

your sal - va - tion.

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

me

with your free Spir - it.

and up-hold

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.

BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C Amen.



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

SENDING

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this The Fourth Sunday in Lent. 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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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, March 24, 2019:

Attendance: 127

Budget Report	This Week	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$ 5,415.00	\$ 62,210.01
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$ 71,065.11</u>
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 359.35)	(\$ 8,855.10)
Expected Expenses		\$ 69,842.09
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 7,632.08)

Holy Comforter's Sanctuary and HVAC Fund Status as of 3/24/2019:

\$225,000 Goal: Received-to-date: 147,979 Additional Amounts Promised: 35.000 Remaining Funds Needed: \$ 42,021

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Jim Buell **GREETER:** Becky Richards

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS: Amanda & Nathan Kelly

Volunteers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Jenn Kearney Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain **NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Carmen DeNicholas **Deb Williams Brandy Milton**

FLUTE: Julia Gunter **USHERS:** Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, March 31

8:45 am Children's Ensemble 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service Noisy Offering

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir practice

Tuesday, April 2

Wednesday, April 3

5:30 pm Youth Handbells 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, April 4

7:00 pm PEP Excerise

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: March 31-April 6

Today, March 31 Pat Long April 1 Barbara Kasmer April 3 Garrett Carpenter



April 4 Sherry Alexander Susan Clark Sandra Cline Myra Hollar

April 5 Taylor Buchanan



A signup sheet for the *Isle of Palms Retreat* is in the church office hallway. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay. Checks payable to Holy Comforter. *IOP Retreat* on memo line.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden Zac Hullander Sue Lahr Ben Moose Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Ron de la Vega Nancy Dickson Dallas Foscue Carol Fox Earl Gardner Larry "Poss" Garrett Meredith Hovis Steve Leonard Jennifer Lineberger Ronnie Lunsford Ruth Lyerly Cookie Lynn Jane Marino
Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
Richard Peters
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

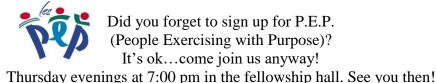
If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

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



What Happens to Swallowed Gum? Nearly everyone has swallowed gum at one time or another but very few of us have needed a doctor because of it. You might have heard that swallowed gum stays in your stomach for 7 years – not true! Though your stomach can't break down a piece of gum the same way it breaks down other food, your digestive system can move it along, and it comes out the other end the same way (or nearly the same way) it went in. In rare cases, swallowing either a

large mass of gum or many small pieces of gum over a short period of time, can cause a blockage in the digestive track. Little kids are most likely to be affected because they do not always understand that gum is to be chewed, not swallowed. So, now that you know what happens to swallowed gum, moms and dads be sure not to give your children gum until they are at least 5 years old – it is at that age they finally understand that gum is different than candy and not to be swallowed. Also, chewing gum isn't necessarily a harmless thing to do – gum that is not sugar-free can cause cavities; gum that is sugar-free is sweetened with sorbitol and can cause diarrhea; cinnamon-flavored gum can irritate the mouth lining. A good rule of thumb is to stick with sugar-free gum and don't have more than one or two pieces a day. And spit it out – don't swallow it!



BCO April Items of the Month Soup & Saltines / Crackers

White Deverchdent Programme P

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

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2019-2020 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. The deadline for your completed application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30. Any applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The annual deadline April 30th and the awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- Total amount in the fund
- Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

Thank You, The Scholarship Ministry

Collection for Migrant Assistance Program

Holy Comforter is collecting items for migrants who are traveling through Charlotte to their sponsors on the East Coast. We are meeting them at the Charlotte Greyhound bus terminal. We will do this on two evenings, Friday, April 12 and Friday, April 26. Please drop off any of these supplies in the Fellowship Hall (near the coffee station) by April 9. We can use up to 40 of any item, but even one (1) is appreciated!

- Draw-string backpacks or high-quality shopping bags
- Pain reliever
- Cough drops
- Blankets (new/compact)
- Diapers, wipes
- Feminine hygiene products (pads)
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- Hair ties/hair brushes/combs
- Men. women and children's new underwear
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Lip balm such as Chapstick
- Hand lotion (or small tubs of Vaseline)
- Coloring books with little packs of crayons for kids
- Little fun toys to keep kids occupied during the long bus ride
- Bottled water
- Snacks-non-perishable food that's easy to travel with. Examples: animal crackers, trail mix, Cliff bars, Cheezits

JOIN A TEAM: If you are interested in being on a team that meets the Migrants, please contact Krystyna at sarrazin1230@hotmail.com. Parking is free at the bus station and we will set up a table with warm food to serve and supplies for the migrants to take. It's about an hour from set-up to when they leave on the next leg of their journey (however flexibility is key! Buses generally do not run on time.) We will be connected via phone/text and keep track of bus for time of arrival.



If you can prepare a warm meal for about 20 people (preferably Hispanic-type food or hot soup) let Krystyna know at 980-318-7496 or via her email listed above.

Please place your Easter Lily Order by filling in the form below. You may then return the form to the church office or place in the offering plate. All orders must be accompanied by payment at time of order so that we can keep a proper accounting of your gifts and reduce the possibilities of errors. Please PRINT CLEARLY your name and the name of person/persons you are *honoring* or placing the Easter lilies *in memory of*. The cost of each lily is \$15.00. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Easter Lily Order Form			
Your Name: Today's Date:			
Telephone Number: Number of lilies ordered:			
☐ In Honor Of:			
☐ In Memory Of:			
☐ To The Glory of God:			
☐ Paid Check	☐ Paid Cash	☐ Mailed Payment	
Make checks payable to Holy Comforter with "Easter Lily" on memo line.			



MISSION TRIP: Shelia Kelly is part of a team heading to Kitwe, Zambia April 25 - May 6. The team is busy preparing duffle bags of clothes, shoes, and much needed baby items for the poor.

Contact Shelia or Tim Kelly to purchase raffle tickets to raise funds for the trip.

Purchasing and installing a water tank for the village is the big project the team is doing. That is where most of the cost of the tickets will go.



Holy Doodles



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