

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • May 7, 2023 •

## Fifth Sunday of Easter



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Rondeau*

Mouret

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C Amen**

# GATHERING SONG: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

All Stand & Sing



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

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

Text: Herbert E. Rindberg, N. 1926  
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1947  
 Rev. C. 1993 Augsburg Fortress  
 Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress, Inc. All rights reserved.

# 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. 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

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  
 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.

## 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!

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*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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.

## SALUTATION

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

## FIRST READING

**Acts 7:55-60**

A reading from the seventh chapter of Acts.

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

**John 14:1-14**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

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

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do

not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”


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:** *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* *All Stand & Sing*



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a  
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a  
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632  
Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Grunstein Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. [www.stainer.co.uk](http://www.stainer.co.uk).



## **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**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Amazing Grace*

Church Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Making Their Way*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks,  
learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOGUE

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

The — Lord be with you. And — al - so 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.

## 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.

## 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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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*

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

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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *I Received the Living God*

*All Sing*

*Refrain*

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.  
I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.  
1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;  
2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;  
3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.  
4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

*Refrain*

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous  
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

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 Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

## KEARNEY FAMILY SABBITICAL BLESSING

### THE BLESSING RIDDLE

*All Sing*

The musical score is for a piece titled "THE BLESSING RIDDLE". It is written for "UNISON VOICES" and "ACCOMP." (Accompaniment). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/mood is marked "Smoothly" with a note value of "♩ = ca. 88-92". The dynamics are marked "mf" (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: "May God give you peace - through ev - 'ry trial. May God give you cour - age for ev - 'ry mile. May". The score consists of two systems. The first system shows the vocal line and the piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff, and the accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

UNISON VOICES

May God give you peace - through ev - 'ry trial. May

Smoothly (♩ = ca. 88-92)

ACCOMP.

God give you cour - age for ev - 'ry mile. May



God give you com - fort and be your friend, and

give you life e - ter - nal, life with - out end.

\* Optional: keyboard introduction.

Copyright © MMIII by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

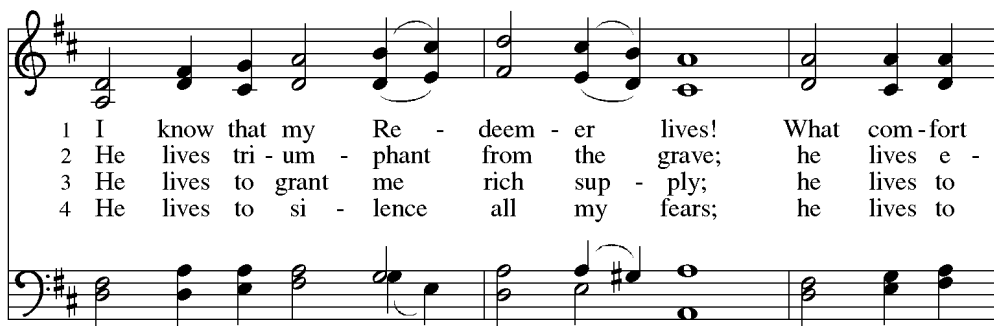
## BLESSING

P The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- 5 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
 he lives and loves me to the end;  
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;  
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 6 He lives, all glory to his name!  
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
 what joy this blest assurance gives:  
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.  
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

\* The altar flowers were given for Erin Cassels birthday from Mom and Tyler.

**This Weeks Schedule:**

**Sunday, May 7th**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Congregational Meeting

10:30 am – Worship

12:00 pm – Church Council Meeting

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir Practice

**Tuesday, May 9th**

7:00pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

7:00 pm – Small Group 2

**Thursday, May 11th**

10:30 am – Prime Timers

*\*Sunday, May 7th is the last Sunday School and HCY before summer break\**

**Meet the Dwelling Travelers!**

Holy Comforter is excited to send a group of nine students and adults to the Dwelling this summer! July 23rd to 28th, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem. We are spotlighting each student over the upcoming months.



Hi, I am Mason Morton and I have been at Holy Comforter since I was born. I am currently active in church and youth group. I am in 6th Grade student at Gaston Christian School. I enjoy playing with my dog Zucker, going on walks and acting. I was in a school play called A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play last November. I am really excited to go on this trip to have a new experience and make new friends.



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

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

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2019. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under One License #A-72463