

## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

- 216 N. Main Street ● Belmont, NC 28012 ● July 14, 2024 ●
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Andante*

*Mozart*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

L Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L 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.**

L 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: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line in treble clef and a bass line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.  
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## GREETING

**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE:

**L**

**C**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

**L**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**

Lord, have mer - cy.

**L**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C**

Lord, have mer - cy.

**L**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

L C

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

L C

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

“THIS IS THE FEAST”

*All Stand and Sing*

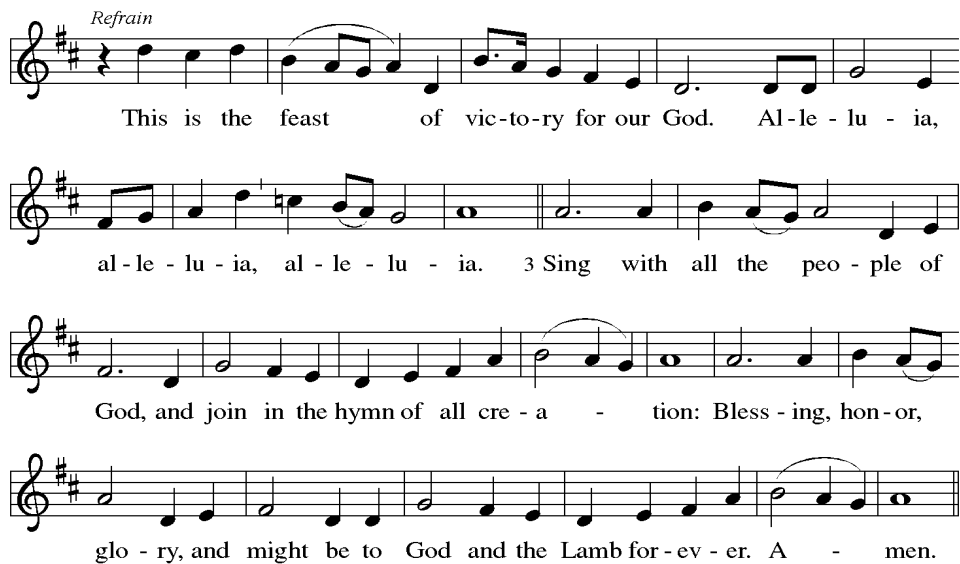
*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



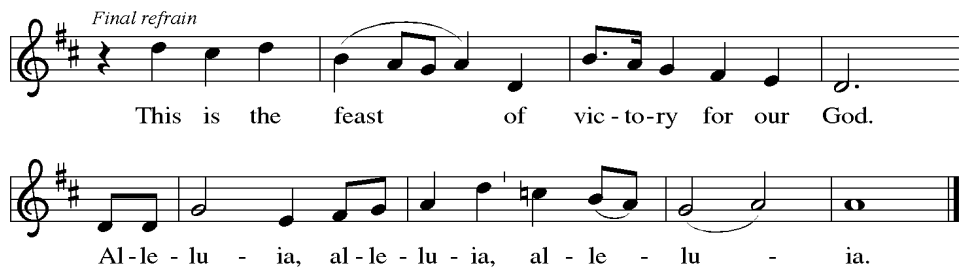
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **SALUTATION**

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, 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**

**Amos 7:7-15**

A reading from the seventh chapter of Amos.

*Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.*

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread

there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter.

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE

*All Stand & Sing*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**Mark 6: 14-29**

**L** The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

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

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."<sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."<sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.<sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."<sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,<sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.<sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.<sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."<sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."<sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."<sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."<sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse



her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

L 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:** *Lead On, O King Eternal*

*All Stand and Sing*

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of pre - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;  
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917  
 Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## 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**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *They Will Soar Like Eagles*

*Church Choir*

*A QR Code is available on page 17 to give your offering online*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

*All Stand and Sing*

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.  
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

## OFFERING PRAYER


L 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

**P** **C**



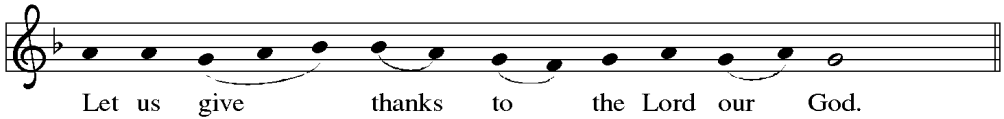
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

**P** **C**




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

**P**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C**

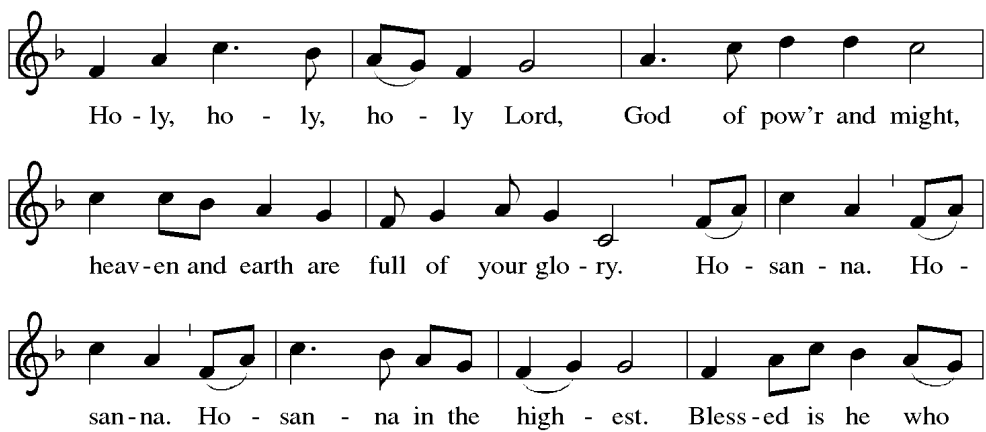


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

**P** ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.

### 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *The Peace*

*Handel*

- L The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen .

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- L Let us pray.
- C **Jesus, Bread of life, 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

- L The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Faith of Our Fathers*

*All Stand & 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 you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain



## SENDING

L Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *The Rejoicing*

*Handel*

\*Special thanks to our Lector, Julia Gunter.

\*Special thanks to Suzanne Fairbairn, Organist. Suzanne is substituting for Greg Cline who is at Lutheridge for music week.

\*Special Thanks to our Flue soloist, Kailey Lawing.

### **Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

12:00 pm – Church Council Meeting

### **GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!**



### **Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Book Club Gathering

### **Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Christian Education

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

### **Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Outreach Meeting

### **Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Youth Gathering

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