

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

- 216 N. Main Street ● Belmont, NC 28012 ● June 16, 2024 ●
- 4th Sunday of Pentecost



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Oh, That I Had A Thousand Voices*

Busarow

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: *As Rain From The Clouds*



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896

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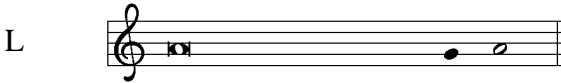
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GREETING

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:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



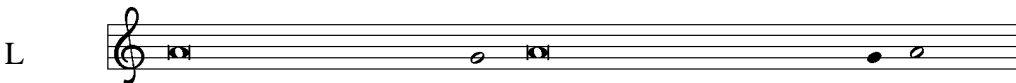
Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



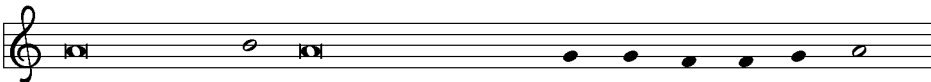
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

L 



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 wor-ship and praise,

L  C 

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

L  C 


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

“THIS IS THE FEAST”

All Stand and Sing

Refrain
Assisting minister 

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

All 

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. 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, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Ezekiel.

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

2nd Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

A reading from 2nd Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has

been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

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!

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.

GOSPEL

Mark 4: 26-34

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

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

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he

did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

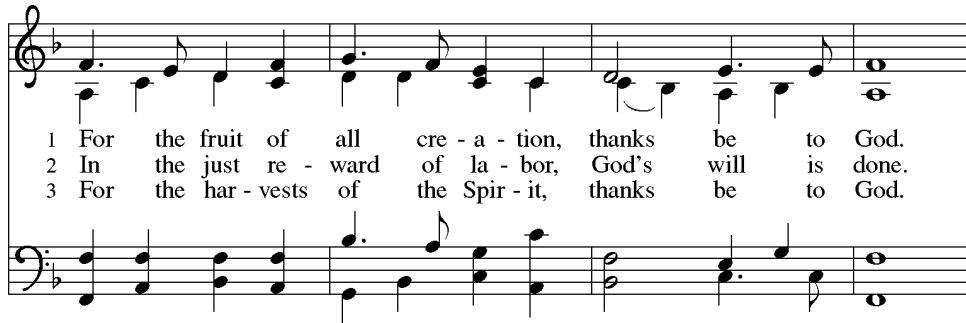
SERMON

Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

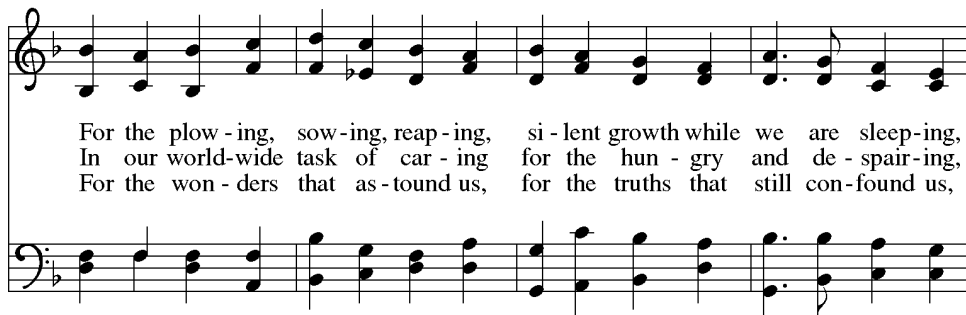
All Stand and Sing



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Church Choir

A QR Code is available on page 16 to give your offering online

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Lord, Be Glorified*

All Stand and Sing

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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OFFERING PRAYER

L Jesus, Bread of life, 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.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly *All Sing*

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.

2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.

3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.

Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.

Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.

We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.

Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
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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: *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

All Stand & Sing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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SENDING

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *My Hope is Built*

Solid Rock

*Special thanks to our Lector, William Charnock.

*Altar Flowers are given by Debbie Mendez, In Memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly.

Sunday, June 16th

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!

Monday, June 17th

7:00 pm – Book Club Gathering

Tuesday, June 18th

7:00 pm – Christian Education

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

