

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • June 2, 2024 •



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Voluntary II*

Rowan

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: *Gather Us In*

All Stand and Sing



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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REETING

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:

A



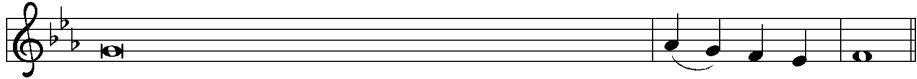
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



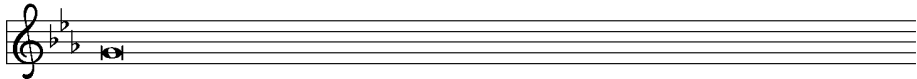
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



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



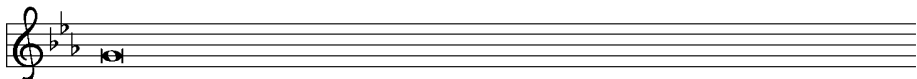
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.


A




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



let us pray to the Lord.

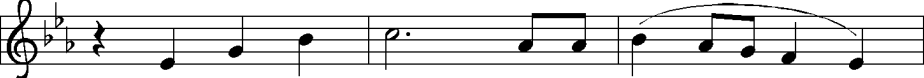
C 
 Lord, have mer - cy.


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

C 
 A - men, a - men.


GLORIA:


All Sing


 Glo - ry to God in the high -


 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.


 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and


 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we


 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



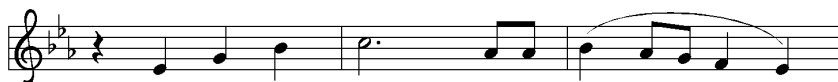
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

SALUTATION

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, 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

Ruth 1: 1-22

A reading from the first chapter of Ruth.

Elimelech's Family Goes to Moab

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Naomi and Her Moabite Daughters-in-Law

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal

kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.
²¹ I went away full,
but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi

when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²² So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Psalm 56: 1-13

A reading from Psalm, the fifty-sixth chapter.

Trust in God under Persecution

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;

all day long foes oppress me;

² my enemies trample on me all day long,

for many fight against me.

O Most High, ³ when I am afraid,

I put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise,

in God I trust; I am not afraid;

what can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they seek to injure my cause;

all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk,

they watch my steps.

As they hoped to have my life,

⁷ so repay them for their crime;

in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸ You have kept count of my tossings;

put my tears in your bottle.

Are they not in your record?

⁹ Then my enemies will retreat

in the day when I call.

This I know, that God is for me.

¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise,

in the LORD, whose word I praise,

- ¹¹ in God I trust; I am not afraid.
 What can a mere mortal do to me?
- ¹² My vows to you I must perform, O God;
 I will render thank offerings to you.
- ¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death,
 and my feet from falling,
 so that I may walk before God
 in the light of life.
- A The word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

All Stand & Sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

GOSPEL

Mark 4: 35-41

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

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

Jesus Stills a Storm

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated.

SERMON

Deacon Beka

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God Is Here*

All Stand & Sing



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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.

Guide your church to expressions of faith that bring rest and release. Teach your faithful people to be attentive to the spiritual, physical, and societal weariness of our neighbors, that we proclaim your grace through tangible acts of mercy and justice. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Keep us mindful of the rhythms of nature as the days lengthen and the seasons shift toward summer. Grant relief to areas facing flooding or drought and bring favorable weather for the flourishing of crops, gardens, and orchards. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Where there is affliction in our world, bring healing. Where world leaders are perplexed, bring clarity of vision. Give a spirit of discernment to political advisors, institutional researchers, economic analysts, and all vocations that inform the work of governments and policymakers. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Provide wholeness and respite to all who are weary: those who struggle in any way and those who care for them. Strengthen first responders and health care workers in their times of exhaustion or frustration. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Stir our hearts toward abundant generosity among neighbors who experience hunger and food insecurity. Bless feeding ministries and community food efforts, especially community gardens, farmers markets, food pantries and Little Free Pantries. Open both our hearts and our tables. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We remember the communion of saints whose lives made visible the saving life of Jesus Christ. Guide us by their example to embody the treasure of your love for the sake of our world, until we come to our final rest in you. 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: *O Spirit, All Embracing*

Church Choir

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create in Me*

All Stand and Sing

The musical score is written for a church choir in a two-staff format. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. There are some fermatas and ties in the bass line.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

L Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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.

C Amen.

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

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: *Let Us Enter In*

All Stand & Sing



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: LET US ENTER IN, Ray Makeever

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SENDING

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Fanfare*

Helman

*Special thanks to our Lector, William Charnock.

*Altar Flowers are given by Rochelle Potter- Happy Birthday to our precious granddaughter Asa Gross.

GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!

Sunday, June 2nd

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

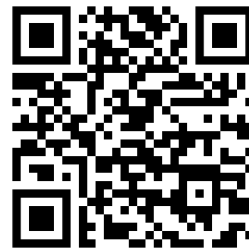
5:00 pm – HCY

Monday, June 3rd

7:00 pm – Book Club

Tuesday, June 4th

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting



Meet the Summer Mission Trip Travelers!

Holy Comforter is excited to send all our active youth group members and adults to the Dwelling and the Youth Gathering this summer! June 12th-16th, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem and The Dwelling. July 16th-20th is our second trip to New Orleans where we are excited to experience the Youth Gathering. We are spotlighting each traveler over the upcoming months.



Hi, I am Mason! I'm 13 and a 7th Grade Student at Gaston Christian School. In my free time I love to song-write, dance, and be the party! I love coming to youth. I am active in HCY, confirmation, and help with children church. I went to the Dwelling last summer for the first time and had a blast. Last summer, I learned that shelters are mostly just for men, and that women with children can never find a shelter that easily, and if they do they have to get on a waitlist. I learned so much and I am so ready to learn more this summer! I can't wait to meet new people, try new things, and for people to listen to my music!