

As We Gather

Humility and thankfulness: they often go hand in hand. Our Creator humbles His people through times of lack and in seasons of hardship. Then, from their crushed spirits, His chosen ones cry out to Him for mercy and restoration. He always comes through! When God's people look up to Him as their source and provider of every blessing, how can they not burst forth in songs of thankfulness and praise? That's what we do today as we begin our Advent journey. We humble ourselves in the sight of our Redeemer. Then we thank Him for His gracious promise to send a Savior and turn the darkness of sin in our lives into the bright light of His forgiveness, love and salvation!

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"The Advent of our King"

Hymn #331

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – THE PROPHECY CANDLE

On this first Sunday in Advent we light one candle on the Advent Wreath. It is known as the "Prophecy Candle" and it reminds us of the prophecies of God in the Old Testament which promised that He would give to us His Son to be our Savior. These prophecies of God have been fulfilled in Jesus.

Lord Jesus Christ, come among us, and by Your Spirit, grant us courage to speak and act as the prophets of old – as those who have been called and chosen to carry Your Word to our world. Amen.

THE HYMN:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to You, O Israel.***

**Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust Your mighty pow'r to save
Bring them in vict'ry through the grave (*refrain*)**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery (*refrain*)**

(As the hymn stanzas are sung, Bob and Cindy Reynolds will light the first candle on the Advent wreath at the 8:00 am service. Wayne and Denise Forehand will light it at the 10:45 am service.)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty Father, You provide for our every need of body and soul. Fix our eyes upon Your Son and our Redeemer as He comes to reconcile us to You. Fill us with thankfulness and praise so that we may overflow with Your love in our relationships with one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 33:14–16 (*Jeremiah offers a word of consolation and hope to the people of Israel.*)

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

THE ANTHEM: ***“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*** Sanctuary Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (*Paul prays for the Church to be filled with thankfulness and love.*)

⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:



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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the nineteenth chapter.

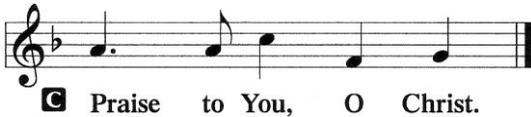


Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 19:28–40 (*We praise the King who comes to save us.*)

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Tim Jacobsmeyer
Director of Music

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"*

Hymn #342

THE MESSAGE "God's Gracious Promise"

Pastor David Brighton

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ Stewardship thought ++

Advent points us to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, the baby Jesus, our Savior.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given . . . and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MITE-Y NOISY CAN COLLECTION

(The "noisy" offering of coins is received on months when there is a fifth Sunday. This offering makes a lot of "noise" in the mission work of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League that it helps to support!)

OFFERTORY:

"Create In Me"



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 pres-ence and take not Your



Ho-ly Spir - it from me. Re- store to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion



and up - hold me with Your free Spir - it

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "*Lord in Your mercy,*" and the congregation will respond, "*Hear our prayer.*"

THE 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.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"Hark the Glad Sound"

Hymn #349

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Midweek Advent services will be on Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16. The service on the 9th will primarily be our Children's Christmas Service. Our theme for the services this year is: "Hark the Glad Sound" and we will focus on the song of Zechariah and the Song of the Church as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. All services are at 7:00 pm and are preceded by a meal at 6:00 pm in the Michael Fellowship Hall.

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Doug & Cindy Branham, in honor of the birthdays of their sons (Doug & James), and by Carl & Charleen Beahm in honor of Jerry Bisping.

Member of the Week; Ralph Wenrick was born in Ashland, Ohio in 1923. After High School he was drafted into the Army. Following a year of training, he spent two years in the European Theater during WWII. Ralph arrived back home in 1945 and attended the University of Ohio for two years. He and Marge Ambrose were married in 1948. They had one daughter, Lynn (Johnson), who is also a member of Mt. Calvary. Ralph was stationed at Shelly AF Depot, which later closed, and then was transferred to Robins AFB. He and Marge attended Faith Lutheran and then joined Mt Calvary in its early years. Ralph helped with a lot of the work when Mt. Calvary expanded. He is quite a builder and even built his own cabin on Lake Sinclair. The PrimeTimers had an OctoberFest there for a number of years. After 55 years of marriage, Ralph's dear wife Marge died in 2003. Ralph enjoys golfing, hunting and the great outdoors! At Senior Fellowship he always brings a delicious home-made pie!

Hanging of the Greens will take place after church on Sunday, December 6th around 12:45. We'll have some pizza immediately following the service down in the MFH, then come upstairs to help decorate the tree in the narthex, hang wreaths, and put out the nativity. Everyone is invited to come and help! Many hands make light work! - Ruthie Radcliff, Altar Guild

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Anne Engle from Bob & Nancy Gerstenberger.

PrimeTimers Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange (for those over 50). The PrimeTimers Annual Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 17th at the Landings Golf Club Restaurant, 309 Stathams Way, Warner Robins. Social time is at 6 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. The menu will consist of Parmesan Crusted Chicken or Roast Beef with salad, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, rolls, and iced tea and coffee. Dessert will be apple crisp. The dinners are \$23.00 each. This includes room fee and gratuity. Your checks should be made out to EDNA HICKS. The last day to pay is Sunday, December 6th as we have signed a contract. In the memo part of the check, write either chicken or beef. Each couple is asked to bring a wrapped white elephant gift for our gift exchange. Please give your checks to Edna Hicks, Marie White or Don Netzing. Please sign up at the service desk. This should be a fun night and we hope to see you there!

Annual Progressive Christmas Dinner - Looking forward to starting the Christmas season festivities Friday, December 4^h, starting at 5:30 in the Narthex at Church for the appetizers, followed by the dinner in the fellowship hall, and desserts at family homes. Hosts for the dessert portion are Crawford & Edna Hicks and Josh & Heather Johnson. Sign-up sheets and tickets are on sale at all services. Cost will be \$5 per person. Baby-sitting will be available. Dinner menu will be a choice of chicken Marsala or baked ham with various side dishes. We hope to see you there!

The Board of Outreach needs members of the congregation to bake cookies. Each Monday night, our Evangelism Explosion teams visit homes in our community to spread the gospel. These teams also bring a plate of cookies to each home they visit. We need 18 to 20 plates with approximately six cookies per plate. This means we need about ten dozen cookies each week. If you can assist us by baking some cookies, please sign up on the sheet at the information counter after today's service. If you have any questions, you can call Jeff Townsend at 988-9991.

The Social Ministry Board is always looking for help. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

- Do you have a few hours each month to volunteer
- Do you have a special talent you like to share or would you like to learn something new
- Do you have resources that could help get a task done more efficiently
- Can you resolve problems, work issues and make things happen
- Do you like to help others
- Can you provide assistance behind the scenes or provide monetary support

Please consider becoming part of the Social Ministry Board. Let any current member know your interest. When we work together we really can make a lot of great things happen.

Mount Calvary's Helping Hands Christmas Dinner! Christmas Day from 12-2 at First United Methodist Church (205 N. Davis Dr.) we will serve hundreds of people with a warm Christmas dinner. We will need help preparing the event, working in the kitchen, serving food, making deliveries, and much more! If you want to help in any way, big or small, please sign-up on the Helping Hands Christmas Dinner sign-up sheet at the information desk or outside Vicar's office.

Our Ushers for December: Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Karen Harmon, who is asthmatic and has contracted whooping cough and pneumonia.

Marrissa Halsell, who is struggling with her multiple sclerosis.

Dwight Miller, who had his gall bladder removed on November 10th.

Regina Ragan, who had a bronchoscopy and lung biopsy on November 11th.

Bob Yeager, who injured his rotator cuff.

Margaret Frazier, who is now at home following surgery to repair a broken jaw she suffered in a fall.

Josie Kong, Evvy Keyes' mom, who has been diagnosed with hydrocephalus (water on the brain) and a brain tumor.

Tony Kong, Evvy Keyes' dad, who is still in the ICU, and on a ventilator.

Deaglan Lovett, Jennifer O'Donnell's infant son, who is in the NICU at Coliseum Hospital.

Keep In Your Prayers

Jan Clark, Chet Branscom, Ralph Wenrick, Jacque Bohm, Rosie Schulz, Diane McCall, Courage Trasmer, Paul Brown, Nancy Hoar, Monika Reynolds, Gary Webb, Yekabu Gedru and Karen Johnson.

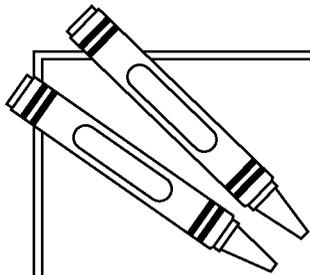
(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Ken Reilly, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), Margaret Frazier, Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Chet Branscom, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Jake Huffman, Chris Walker, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.



Just for **KIDS**

A Special Song of Thanks

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

CODE:

A ≡	E	I	O	U
B	F	L <	P	V
C	G	M ^	R	W #
D	H	N	S	X
			T	Y

Musical notation for the song, consisting of 10 staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, clefs, and accidentals, corresponding to the code provided above.

Challenge: What do we commonly call this song?

The

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Doxology

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Andrew LeBorious (8 am) and Zoe Bowden (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Laird Van Gorder, Brent Durbin, Dick Kesler & Kent Hansen. Late – D. J. Nelson, Don Netzing, Adam Beecher, Dave Miller, Bob Day & Larry Ellgass. **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Kent Hansen (8 am) and Don Netzing (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Nick Jenkins (8 am) and Steven Dimes (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Wed 7 pm), Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Andrew LeBorious (Sat 6 pm), Cody Halsell (8 am) and Maddy Hagemann (10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Lexie Hadley (Wed 7 pm), John Harmon (Sat 6 pm), Carol Yeager (8 am) and Julie Dimes (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Deb Fingles (Sun 8 am) and Jan Clark (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Malachi 3:1-7b and Philipians 1:2-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 50 Early – 98 Late – 140 Total – 288

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Boards
	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Worship
	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	6:00 pm	Progressive Dinner
	6 – 8 pm	Middle School Christmas Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sunday	12:00 am	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	TAG Night