

As We Gather

Parents say that children grow up quickly. This is especially evident in today's Gospel reading. A twelve-year-old Jesus is already well-versed in the Scriptures and in the wisdom of God. In our Old Testament Reading, Solomon's request for wisdom from God provides us a glimpse into God's wisdom. The greatest and highest wisdom is that a person is not and cannot be saved by his or her own works or actions, but solely by faith in the gift of Jesus Christ. The reading from Ephesians further emphasizes how we become God's children and part of God's family by God's actions. These actions of adoption show how God has chosen you in Christ.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is being celebrated today. It is the belief of the Lutheran Church, based on Jesus' own words, that in this Sacrament His body and blood are really present and that forgiveness of sins and the assurance of salvation are offered to all who come confessing their sins and believing in Him. Communion is therefore offered to those who share this confession of faith. Children who are not yet confirmed are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Guests who may have questions about Communion at Mt. Calvary are encouraged to talk to Pastor Brighton.

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****OPENING HYMN:***"O Word of God Incarnate"***Hymn #523****THE INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES**

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

That we should be holy and blameless before Him.**THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Dear friends, our own sin and our inability to free ourselves are the reasons a Savior was born. We now confess our sins to God, confident that He has first chosen and loved us, giving us forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(please kneel)

Almighty God,

We confess to You all our sins in thought, word, and deed. Some of our sins we know; some are known only to You. We are sinful by nature. Our works do not show a life of faith and repentance, nor do they glorify You. We have not lived according to the purpose of Your will, but have neglected the richness of Your grace with indifference and disobedience. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Upon this your confession and through the Holy Spirit working in us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

**A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant with virgin honor pure!
Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"**

**The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high;
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.
Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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: 1 Kings 3:4–15 *(Solomon prays to the Lord for wisdom.)*

⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.

⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:3–14 (*Paul declares that God chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.*)

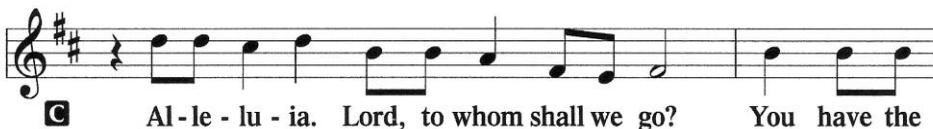
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

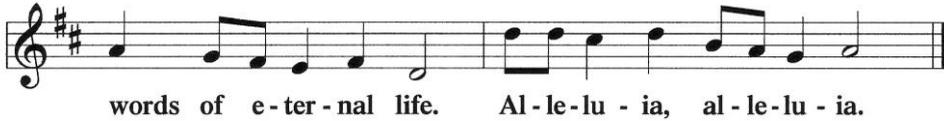
¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

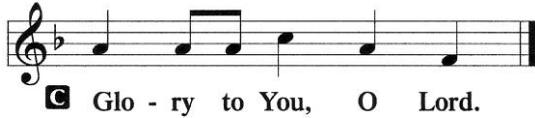
THE ALLELUIA VERSE:





THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

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

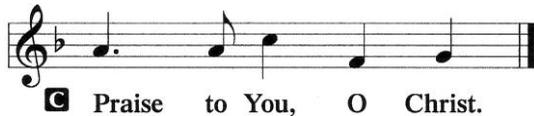


THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:40–52 (*Jesus goes to Passover in Jerusalem and shows He is about the things of His Father.*)

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pastor David Brighton

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Within the Father's House"
(Hymn Tune: "We Give Thee but Thine Own")

Hymn #410

THE MESSAGE:

"Jesus in the Temple"

Vicar Tim Staffeld

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

The Christmas celebration continues!

Our Savior is born and we live to serve Him.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,
just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (John 15:10)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"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 ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

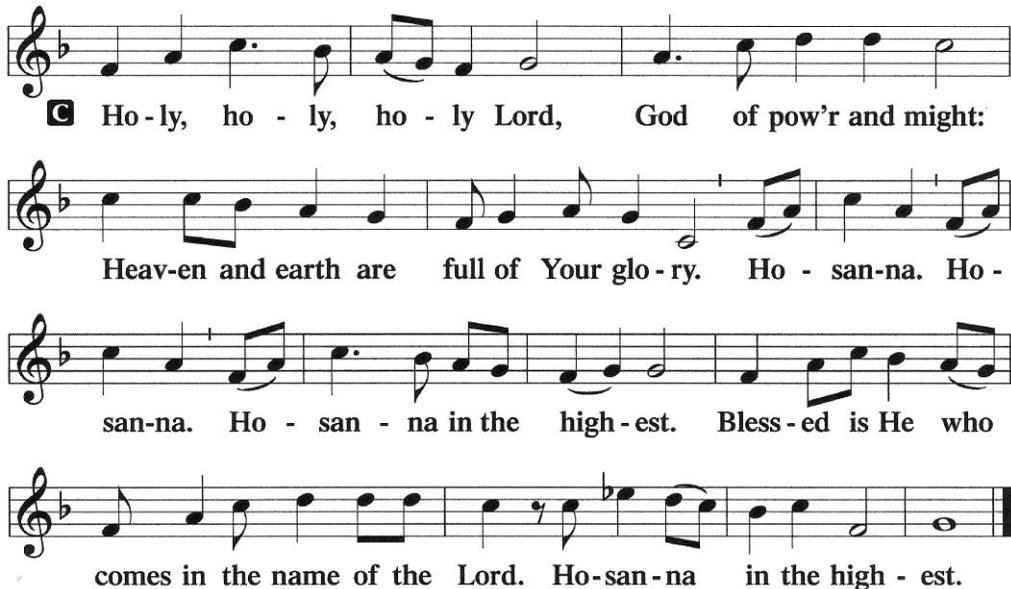
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

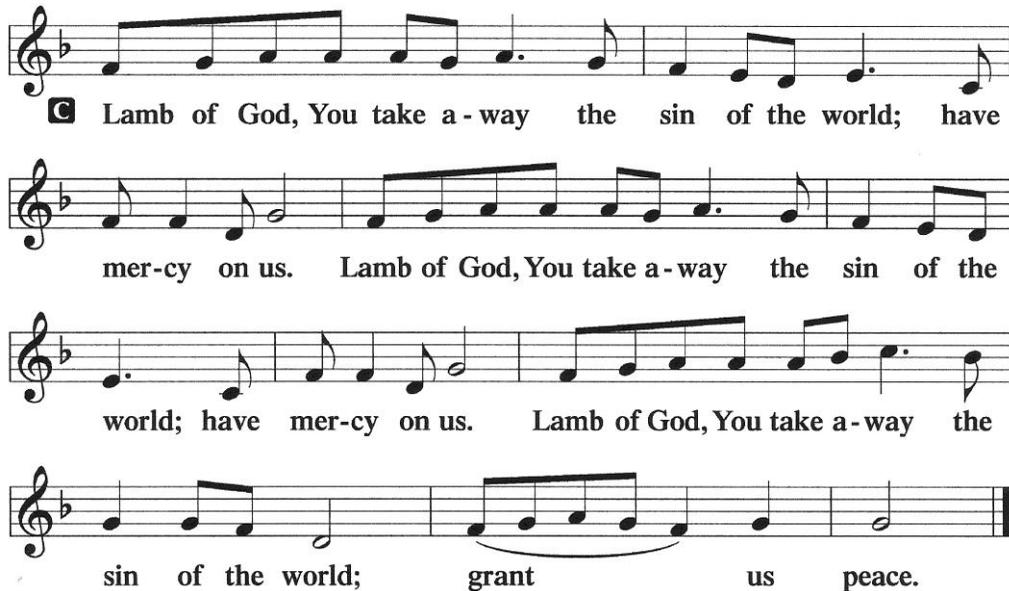
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



☐ 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION *(The center cup in each tray is white grape juice for pregnant moms or those allergic to alcohol.)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

<i>"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"</i>	Hymn #623
<i>"As With Gladness Men of Old"</i>	Hymn #397
<i>"Children of the Heavenly Father"</i>	Hymn #725

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward 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.

THE BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: *"Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"* Hymn #390

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Gary & Lexie Hadley, in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.

I would like to thank my church family at Mount Calvary for the prayers, phone calls, cards and meals you provided following my recent surgery. It is truly a blessing to be part of a loving groups of brothers and sisters in Christ. - Bob Yeager

Thanks so much! Marcia and I want to thank our church family for your kindness and generosity this Christmas season. We've enjoyed the many cards and well wishes and other expressions of love. We are so blessed to be a part of the Mt. Calvary family and we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. It seems like a fast 17 years have gone by since we arrived in Warner Robins and I can honestly say that I'm just as excited about the challenges and opportunities before us to share the Gospel message in Middle Georgia as I was 17 years ago when I arrived as your new pastor! May God bless each one of us in 2016 with His presence, His love, His protection, His forgiveness, and His peace! *Pastor & Marcia Brighton*

Thank-You! Sonja, the boys and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Mount Calvary for your amazing support of our ministry and life among you. While your generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated, it is just the tip of the iceberg compared to all the other ways you support our family. I want to thank all those among you who have adopted us as brothers & sisters, aunts & uncles, and even some grandparents, through you our lives have been forever blessed. And I thank all of you who join in on the work of ministry! Ministry would not be able to happen without the members of all our boards, Sunday school teachers, Wednesday night workers, small group leaders, parent volunteers, members of the SLDT, and (most recently) those of you helping to launch Rebecca's Garden @ Mount Calvary. I would be remiss if I did not thank the amazing group of people I get to work with each and every day: Pastor, Vicar, Tim, Cynthia, Becky, Don, and Jack make up an amazing ministry team that makes being joy-filled in ministry possible! We consider ourselves blessed to be part of such an amazing church family! Thank you once again for everything you do!

Thank you to all who assisted with the Helping Hands Christmas Dinner! We served over 250 meals to those in need at First United Methodist, Warner Robins Housing Authority, and through vehicle deliveries. Whether you volunteered at the event, donated supplies, or kept the event in your prayers, thank you! I am honored to serve alongside such hardworking and loving people who seek to share the love of Christ and care for others. I had a blast with the event! --- Vicar Tim Staffeld

Don't Forget Bible Class: We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas Break! Christian Education Hour resume this Sunday with classes for all ages!

Wednesday Nights Resume: Our midweek time of Christian Fellowship & Education resumes on Wednesday, January 6th, with dinner at 5:30 and classes beginning at 6:16. What a great way to start off the new year!

A new prayer group will meet for the first time on Thursday, January 21, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Cry Room at Mt. Calvary. The purpose of this prayer group will be to rely upon the Holy Spirit to help us pray for each other and our concerns. We will also pray for our church and our community. We intend to start with a song or hymn, have a short meditation on a selected Bible passage, and to spend the rest of the time in prayer. The group will be facilitated by Jerry Bisping and will be open to anyone who wants to spend time before our Lord in prayer.

Macon Mayhem: There are still 12 tickets left for TAG's trip to the Macon Mayhem game on Friday, January 8th. Youth can either come on their own or families can make a night of it. Tickets are on a first paid, first seated basis. We are in the first few rows on center ice! Talk to Pete on Wednesday for tickets.

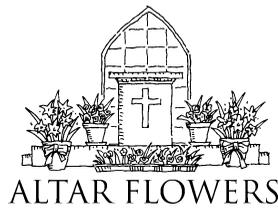
High School Winter Retreat: There will be an on-site retreat for all High School Youth on Friday & Saturday, January 22-23. The retreat will begin at 5:00 pm and be finished at 7:00 pm the next night. The cost for this event is \$35/person to cover meals, program, and a TAG t-shirt!

Student Leadership Development Team (SLDT): Students interested in serving on the Winter/Spring 2016 Session of the SLDT need to fill out an application or reapplication by Sunday, January 17th. We will be having our winter planning retreat on Saturday, January 30th. All High School youth who are actively attending Mount Calvary are eligible to serve on the SLDT.

Lutheran Night Tickets & Sub Sale Orders: We will begin selling Lutheran Night Tickets and taking Sub Sale orders next weekend. Please consider supporting our Youth Ministry by participating in both of these fund-raising efforts!

Sweethearts Dinner - Sunday, February 14th, 6-8 pm in the Michael Fellowship Hall. We look forward to a delicious meal and the traditional chocolate dessert contest where you, the guests, provide your favorite chocolate indulgence. The Board of Fellowships asks folks to bring in a wedding photo to display during the event. Babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions, please see your BOF members, Keith Dierking, Deb Fingles, Michelle Crawford, and Doug Branham. Cost is \$5 a person. What a deal!

The Flower Chart for 2016 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Marrissa Halsell, who is hospitalized with complications from Multiple Sclerosis.

Jeannie Hawkins, who fell and suffered a fracture in a bone above her wrist and a fracture of the bones around her left eye.

Keep In Your Prayers

Gerald Eschke, Fred Crawford, Betsy Luppino, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), Sonya Popken, Karen Harmon, Regina Ragan, Jan Clark, Chet Branscom, Deloris Denzine 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

Matthew Forehand, 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.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Vicar Tim Staffeld. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Eric Gossman (8 am) and Bill Gragg (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Andrew LeBorious (8 am) and Colton Wurdeman (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Don Parrott, Ralph Wenrick, Dale Hawkins & Roger Foss. Late – Paul Ferguson, Sam Culpepper, Dale Channell, Champ Aldredge & Mark Burnette. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Bob Reynolds (8 am) and Roger Moeller (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Lyle Wurdeman (8 am) and Kyle Webb (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and John Hunter (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Maddy Hagemann (Sat 6 pm), Sway Cronin (Sun 8 am) and Zoe Bowden (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Jeannie Hawkins, Susan Julson & Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Becky McVay (Sat 6 pm), Dick Kesler (Sun 8 am) and Adam Beecher (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Erv & Kathy Robinson (Sun 8 am) and Dave & Lois Harter (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7 and Romans 6:1-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Christmas Eve: 5 pm -138, 7 pm – 240, 10pm – 158 Total 536
Saturday – 24 Early – 80 Late – 128 Total – 232

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Monday	10:00 am	Ladies Guild
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	6:30 pm	RG@MC Task Force
Friday	5:30 – 10 pm	Macon Mayhem Game
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	12:00 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting