

**As We Gather**

Absalom. It's not a name we hear all that often in church, but Absalom was King David's third son and we get a hint of his character when we read that he built a monument to himself in the King's Valley. He named it after himself so that his name would be remembered in Israel. Absalom's revolt against his father and his take-over of the kingdom of Israel were short-lived as David's more experienced warriors soon crushed Absalom's rebellion. The story of Absalom is also the story of a father who loved his son but didn't know how to show it. It's the story of a father who loved his son, but who showed the depth of his love too late to help his son. In contrast, God showed His love for us by sending His only Son to be the sacrificial lamb who would die for our sins. God continues to show the depth of His love for us by guarding and protecting us day by day on our way to heaven's glory!

**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 Christ, You Walked the Road"***Hymn #424****THE INVOCATION**

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

**Amen.**

**HOLY BAPTISM:** (8:00 am service)**Elijah James Maruska****CALL TO CONFESSION:****"Return to the Lord, Your God"***(choir)*

**Return to the Lord, your God  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
For the day of the Lord is coming,  
The day of the Lord is near.  
Return, return,  
Return to the Lord, your God  
Return to the Lord, your God,**

## THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us now make confession of our sins.

*(please kneel)*

O Lord Jesus Christ,

**You who remained ever faithful to Your Father in heaven, have mercy on us, for like the Prodigal Son we also wander, turning our backs on His love and many blessings. At times, like Absalom, we openly rebel against Your rule in our lives. We sin and justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Have mercy on us, forgive us, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*(choir)*

**"Yet even now," says the Lord,  
"Return to me with all Your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,  
And rend your hearts and not your garments."  
Return, return,  
Return to the Lord, your God  
Return to the Lord, your God,**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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:

***"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"***

**Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His and He is mine.**

**O, my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.**

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. Though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: 2 Samuel 18:1-15, 31-33** *(Absalom's revolt against his father ends in his death.)*

<sup>1</sup> Then David mustered the men who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. <sup>2</sup> And David sent out the army, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the men, "I myself will also go out with you." <sup>3</sup> But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore it is better that you send us help from the city." <sup>4</sup> The king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. <sup>5</sup> And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

<sup>6</sup> So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. <sup>7</sup> And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. <sup>8</sup> The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

<sup>9</sup> And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. <sup>10</sup> And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." <sup>11</sup> Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." <sup>12</sup> But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'For my sake protect the young man Absalom.'" <sup>13</sup> On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." <sup>14</sup> Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. <sup>15</sup> And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

<sup>31</sup> And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you." <sup>32</sup> The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man."

<sup>33</sup> And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21** (*Be reconciled to God.*)

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE VERSE FOR LENT:**

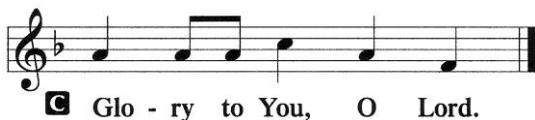
***Return to the Lord***



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:**

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



☩ Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32** (*The parable of the prodigal son*)

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup> And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'" "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

Vicar Tim Staffeld

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

**Hymn #686**

**THE MESSAGE:**

**"Absalom: Even the King's Kids Aren't Perfect"**

Pastor David Brighton

**THE NICENE CREED:** (10:45 am service)

**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 ++**

Lent is from an old Anglo-Saxon word that means "springtime." The 40 days of Lent are a time of penitence, a time to conduct a spiritual "house cleaning," and give up our self-serving ways as we seek to live our lives worthy of our calling as God's baptized people.

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**

***"Lord of All Good"***

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now.  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.  
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows;  
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:  
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

## THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

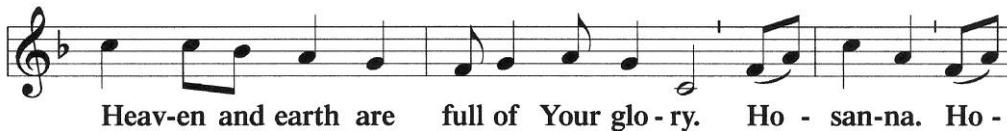
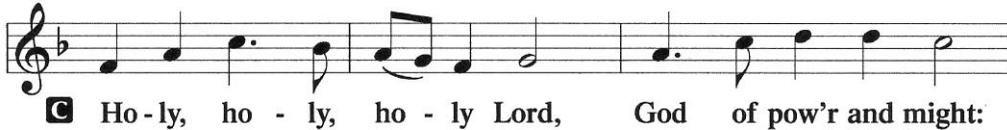
Lift up your hearts.

**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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



### 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.**

**G** 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>"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"</i>	<b>Hymn #619</b>
<i>"Just As I Am without One Plea"</i>	<b>Hymn #570</b>
<i>"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"</i>	<b>Hymn #707</b>

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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:** *"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"* **Hymn #922**

## A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

### THE POSTLUDE

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Altar Flowers were provided this week** by Lexie Hadley, in honor of Gary and their son, Trevor's, birthdays, and by Riley hood, in memory of his wife, Mary's, birthday.

**Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Mary Hursey**, Fred's mom, from Don & Judy Parrott.

**I want to thank all of my friends at Mt Calvary** for their calls, cards and prayers after my recent accident. I feel truly blessed and hope to be able to be back with you all soon. - Sallie Brinkley

**Crawford Hicks wishes to thank all of you who sent him a 95<sup>th</sup> birthday card.** The idea was to present him with 95 cards, but it was such a delightful surprise for him to actually receive many, many more than that. - Edna Hicks

**Time to Order Your Easter Lilies!** - Believe it or not, only 4 more weeks til Easter, so get your lilies ordered soon! The price again this year will be \$12 for one plant, or \$10 per plant if you order more than one. Your check can be made out to "Mt Calvary Lutheran Church" with "Lilies" on the memo line. Cash is also accepted, however, be sure that your check or cash accompanies your order form! Then place it in the offering plate or on Jack's desk. - Altar Guild

**Reminder** – Make plans to attend the Silent Auction next Sunday (13<sup>th</sup>) at 12:30 pm. All proceeds will go to the Priss & Frank House, Inc., which provides a safe and monitored environment for foster children visiting with their parents. A light lunch will be served for \$3.00 per person. If you have a service or item you would like to donate, give Liz Hunter (714-9506) a call by Wednesday.

**Community Survey:** The Outreach Board has scheduled our annual community survey for two days, March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm both days. This survey is especially important because in addition to identifying neighbors who don't have a church home, we will provide information about our Easter worship services and our Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with our "Walk With Jesus". We need your help! We will visit homes/apartments in our neighborhood using teams of two or three after a short training session at church. If you can help, please sign up on the Community Survey sign-up sheet on the information counter in the church narthex.. If you have any questions, please talk to Bruce Bauman. Thank you.

**The Ladies Guild will be collecting** packages of children's new sox or new underwear during Lent. They will be given to Faith Lutheran Clothes. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Contact Nancy Branscom or Vivian Stillely with questions.

**Walk with Jesus-** Mark your calendar today for this year's Walk with Jesus. Join us on March 26, 2016, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. as we follow Jesus on a step-by-step journey to the cross and then see the empty tomb on Easter morning! We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt. Sign-up sheets will be available soon! Don't miss out on this opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family and friends at Mount Calvary!! Any questions, please ask Cynthia at mt-cal-dcm@att.net.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**The family of Ken Reilly**, who died this past week.

**Hazel Stockelman**, Nancy Branscom's sister, who is hospitalized with heart problems.

**Dwight Miller**, who is hospitalized with pneumonia.

**Gilbert Cox**, John Trichinotis' brother-in-law, who is recovering from surgery on his neck.

**Kurt Rover**, who is hospitalized following a fall.

**Sallie Brinkley**, who fell and injured her back.

**Sandi Jacobsmeyer**, who is recovering at home following back surgery.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Kurt Rover, Sallie Brinkley, Sandi Jacobsmeyer, Belle Wright, Jeanene Crawford, Tim Yarbrough, Norman Thompson, Louise May (Jimmy Martin's mother), Courage Trasmer, Joyce Boone, Chet Branscom, Gerald Eschke, Betsy Luppino, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), 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: Margaret Frazier, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, 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**

Emily Whaley, Rodney Hood, Matthew Forehand, Jake Huffman, 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:** Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton/Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Mark Burnette (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Carolyn Harper (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:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Kathy Robinson (8 am) and Dave Harter (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Roger Moeller. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Louis Foss (8 am) and Josh Johnson (10:45 am).

## SERVING US NEXT WEEK

**ELDERS:** Kenn Keyes (Wed 7 pm), Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (Wed 7 pm), Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Sway Cronin (Sun 8 am) and Tyler Longbine (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Becky McVay (Sat 6 pm), Kent Hansen (Sun 8 am) and Dave Radcliff (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Dick & Susan Kesler (Sun 8 am) and Paul & Dottie Brown (Sun 10:45 am).

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 9:1-19, 27-28 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

**Saturday – 50 Early – 106 Late – 141 Total – 297**

## THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	10:00 am	Ladies Guild
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Council
	6:00 pm	Meal
	7:00 pm	Worship
Thursday	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	5:00 pm	High School Spring Retreat (thru Sun @ 3 pm)
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	
	12:15 pm	Silent Auction
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting