

As We Gather

"Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). When we first meet Saul he is standing there approving the stoning of Stephen and he leads the efforts of the Jews as they persecute Jesus' followers. But then Saul meets God on the road to Damascus and everything changes! God says of him, "He is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). Saul becomes Paul and leads the missionary efforts of the early Christian church as it expands its reach from Jerusalem all the way to Rome. What a change! And what a God we have who uses even the "chief of sinners," as Paul later described himself, to accomplish God's mission to seek and to save the lost. Today we celebrate our God who is a God of second chances!

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****OPENING HYMN:***"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"***Hymn #435****INVOCATION**

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

Amen.

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 are God's own Son, sent to us by Your Heavenly Father, have mercy on us, for like Saul we often think we are doing Your work when Satan has deceived us into serving only ourselves. Though we justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment, have mercy on us and forgive us. 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.**

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"How Can I Thank You, Lord"

**How can I thank You, Lord, for all Your loving kindness,
That You have patiently born with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins and trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev'ry day.**

**Lord, You have raised me up to joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way that leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away; For this I thank You, Lord.
Now with my heart and soul all evil I abhor.**

**O Father, God of love, now hear my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God, accept my adoration;
O Holy Spirit, be my ever faithful guide
That I may serve You here and there with You abide.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-19 *(Saul's conversion)*

¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 15:3-11 (*The resurrection of the dead*)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

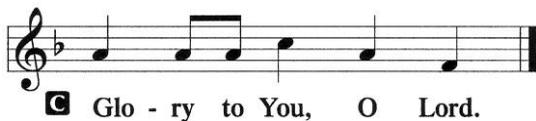
THE VERSE FOR LENT: "Return to the Lord"



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 twentieth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 20:9–20 (*The parable of the wicked tenants*)

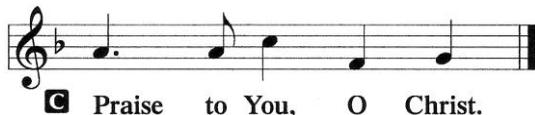
⁹ And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰ When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³ Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' ¹⁴ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" ¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?"

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰ So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Mt. Calvary Puppet Ministry

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"

Hymn #573

THE MESSAGE

"Saul/Paul: A New Name, A Second Chance"

Pastor 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

++ 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.

THE OFFERTORY:

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

**We give You but Your own, in any gifts we bring;
All that we have is Yours alone, a trust from You, our King.**

**May we Your bounties thus as stewards true receive
And gladly, Lord, as You bless us, to You our first fruits give.**

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 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 Ever Walk With Jesus"

Hymn #685

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Sallie Brinkley, in loving memory of her husband, John, and by Barbara Mabee, in honor of her son Scott's birthday.

Members of the Week: Gary & Lexie Hadley have been in Warner Robins since 2005. Their daughter Tyson and granddaughter Sara introduced them to Mt. Calvary. Lexie joined right away, but Gary just became a member in January 2016. Gary was from a military family so he moved around a lot. Lexie mainly grew up in Alabama and Mississippi but ended up in Texas after graduation from High School. She and Gary both attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. They met on their first day of their freshman year!! Gary says he fell in love with Lexie that day and knew she was the one he would marry. That day came on January 3, 1971; during semester break of their Senior year. They have been happily married ever since! After college Gary began his 26 year career with Deluxe Corporation, a large printer of financial documents. His job took them to Dallas, then Omaha and then Indianapolis. Lexie had various jobs such as office work, pre-school teacher, church secretary and residential surveyor. After moving to Warner Robins Gary worked for 3 years with the Warner Robins Police Dept. All job experiences led to their present business-- Oakridge Custom Finishing, a firearms business, which they own with their daughter Tyson. Gary also has a Bail Bonding business. Gary and Lexie also had a son, Trevor, who died in a drowning accident at the age of 18. He is missed every day! Gary and Lexie think that the members of Mt. Calvary are a wonderful, caring group of folks and the Pastor and staff are a blessing to all. They appreciate that the true Gospel is taught every Sunday at Mt. Calvary. They enjoy participating in various classes and fellowship gatherings.

Nancy and I would like to thank you for all the cards and prayers during the recent loss of my mother. God Bless you! - Fred Hursey.

Mount Calvary has received gifts in memory of Ken Reilly from Joan Steese and Rob & Michelle Crawford.

The Mt Calvary Spring clean-up/workday is scheduled for next Saturday, 3/19/16 from 9 AM to Noon, after the men's breakfast, weather permitting. We plan on cleaning up around the church and annex grounds and cleaning windows inside and out. Please come out and help and bring your work gloves and lawn-type tools. Contact John Hunter at 335-3426 for more information.

Men's Breakfast – Guys! It's time to sign up at the Information Desk for this month's breakfast. We'll meet at 8:00 am in the Michael Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 19thth**. Join us for good food and fellowship. Those "young men" of high school age and older are invited!

HE IS RISEN decals and magnets are for sale by the Ladies Guild (\$5.00). Money made from these Easter items will go to Mt. Calvary Youth mission trip and Faith Lutheran Clothes Closet. Check them out after each service in the Narthex.

Senior Fellowship - Come join us for Senior Fellowship **Thursday, March 17th, at 11:00 am**, in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a brief Bible study, a game or two, recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, a great time, and a delicious pot luck lunch. If, for some reason you cannot make a dish, bring yourself, there is always plenty of really delicious food.

Daytime Callers share Christ's love and concern with shut-ins and others who need to know that we at Mt. Calvary care for them. We meet this **Monday, March 14th, in the church conference room at 11:00 am**.

Craft & Chat – Please join us for a morning of crafting of your choice and fellowship. We meet the third Wednesday of the month (this Wednesday) at 9:30 am in the annex. Please join us if you would like to learn how to knit or crochet or if you just want to sit and chat.

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: The Silent Auction will be held this Sunday (3/13) at 12:30---\$3 lunch (kids under 10 free/family cap \$12), live music provided by our own fantastic pianist Tim Jacobsmeyer. Some of the items include: new Grill, Louis Vuitton purse, new tablet computer, all kinds of gift certificates, 3 family counseling sessions, \$50 certificate for services rendered at Town & Country Veterinarian's, several Longaberger baskets and so much more! A list is in the Narthex all of the items. All proceeds go to the Priss and Frank Center, who work with children in foster care reconnect with their parents in a safe environment.

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.

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 Stilley with questions.

PRAYER CONCERNS

John Harmon, who is recovering following foot surgery.

Peggy Rodriguez, who had part of her right leg amputated on March 8th.

The family of Belle Wright, who died March 9th.

Hiltraud Culpepper, who had knee surgery on March 1st.

Carol LeBoriosis, Pete's mother, who is hospitalized following a fall.

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

Dwight Miller, who is hospitalized with lung problems.

Keep In Your Prayers

Kurt Rover, Sallie Brinkley, Sandi Jacobsmeyer, 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. **ELDERS:** Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sway Cronin (8 am) and Tyler Longbine (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Laird Van Gorder, Brent Durbin, Dick Kesler & Kent Hansen. Late – D. J. Nelson, Don Netzinger, Adam Beecher, Dave Miller, Bob Day & Larry Ellgass. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Kent Hansen (8 am) and Dave Radcliff (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Roger Moeller. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Louis Foss (8 am) and Josh Johnson (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: D. J. Nelson (Wed 7 pm), Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Adam Beecher (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Cody Halsell (Wed 7 pm), Abigail Halsell (Sat 6 pm), Sara Van Lannen (Sun 8 am) and Carlee Toler (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Susan Julson, Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Pruet Burge (Sat 6 pm), Bob Yeager (Sun 8 am) and Bonnie Hudlin (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Deb Fingles (Sun 8 am) and John & Marie White (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 32:36-39 and Philippians 2:5-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 86 Early – 101 Late – 150 Total – 337

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
	12:15 pm	Silent Auction
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC
Wednesday	9:30 am	Craft & Chat
	6:00 pm	Meal
	7:00 pm	Worship
	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00 am	Senior Fellowship
Saturday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	12 – 2 pm	Middle School Bowling
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	TAG Night