

As We Gather

Today we mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem – a triumph that will be short-lived, as we know. As the hymn says, "Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die." As we mark the events that begin Holy Week, we will have another entrance – this one not so grand – as the thief to be hung on the cross next to Jesus tells us his story. Today we also conclude our series on "Bad Boys of the Bible" as we consider the plight – and the salvation – of the thief on the cross.

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****THE INVOCATION**

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

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 21:1-9 *(Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem)*

PROCESSION OF BANNERS: Sunday School Children

PROCESSIONAL SONG: "Hosanna" Sunday School Children

DRAMA: "Thoughts of a Man Condemned"

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 rode in triumph through the streets of Jerusalem to the praises of Your people, have mercy on us, for like the joyful crowds of that day, we soon forget that You are king in our lives. Just as their shouts of adoration turned to cries of condemnation, by our sinful lives, we stand with that crowd in Pilate's courtyard crying ever louder, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" O Lord, have mercy on us. 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.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE:

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hymn #442

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. You sent Your Son to ride into Jerusalem, to be betrayed, to suffer, to die, and to rise. Grant that we remember the events of Your Son's Passion so that we may give You thanks for our redemption and share the story of Your saving work with others; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 32:36–39 *(The Lord will vindicate His people.)*

³⁶ For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. ³⁷ Then he will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, ³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!

³⁹ "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Philippians 2:5–11 (*"He became obedient to death."*)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

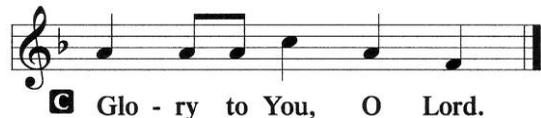
THE VERSE FOR LENT: "Return to the Lord"



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 twenty-third chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 23:32-43 (*The Crucifixion*)

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pete LeBorious
Director of Christian Education

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Jesus, In Your Dying Woes"* stanzas 1, 4-6 **Hymn #447**

THE MESSAGE: **"The Thief on the Cross"** 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 ++

Palm Sunday begins the events of Holy Week,
when Jesus came to offer Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin.

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings You were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am – it is written about Me in the scroll – I have come to do Your will, O God.' " (Hebrews 10:5-7)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"Jesus, Remember Me"

**Jesus, remember me
When You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
When You come into Your kingdom.**
(repeat stanza)

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

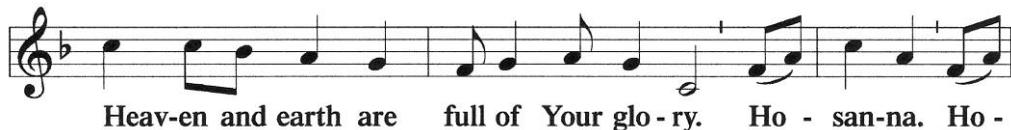
Lift up your hearts.

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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



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.

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:*"The Lamb"***Hymn #547***"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"***Hymn #443***"My Song Is Love Unknown"***Hymn #430****THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have received at this altar the benefits of Your Son's Passion in His body and blood given and shed for us, that we might be forgiven and strengthened; 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 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:***"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"***Hymn #441****A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER****THE POSTLUDE**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Pastor Brighton, in honor of Marcia's birthday (19th) and in honor of the baptism of Olivia Elizabeth Schuller (20th); and by Doug & Deb Fingles, in honor of their wedding anniversary and of Deb's birthday.

Members of the Week: Dale and Wilma Rockwell; Brandon & Beth. Dale grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio and Wilma in Dayton. They both attended Wright State University, which is where they met. They were married in 1984 in Dayton, Ohio. They moved to Warner Robins in 1995, due to BRAC. Dale is an engineer at Robins AFB and Wilma teaches at Christ School. Brandon is attending the University of Georgia; majoring in Pre-med. Beth is a Senior at Veterans High School and plans to study nursing. They enjoy tennis and hiking and also family time; laughing and chatting together. They are happy to be members of Mt. Calvary, which is like family to them.

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Ken Reilly from Sue Glaser.

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Mary Hursey from Steve & Jan Kirchoff.

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Greg Opolka from the Rothman Family and Irma Gahan.

Mount Calvary has received gifts in memory of Belle Wright from Toby & Lorraine Jenson, Don & Monelle Netzing, Joan Steese, Jimmy & Ginger Martin, Sue Glaser and Dave & Lois Harter.

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, words of comfort, meals, visits, hugs and helping out in the nursery; at the time of Ken's sickness and at his departure to be with Our LORD and Savior. I have been truly Blessed by my Mount Calvary Family. - Rhoda Reilly

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.

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

Mike Finnegan, Barbara Jernigan's brother, who is hospitalized at Emory with septic shock.

Pat Aldredge, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Charleen Beahm, who is recovering from parathyroid surgery.

John Harmon, who is recovering following foot surgery.

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

Hiltraud Culpepper, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Carol LeBorious, 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: Vicar Tim Staffeld. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Adam Beecher (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sara Van Lannen (8 am) and Carlee Toler (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:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Susan Julson, Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Bob Yeager (8 am) and Bonnie Hudlin (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Roger Moeller. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Louis Foss (8 am) and Josh Johnson (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Mark Burnette (Thur 7 pm), Bob Gerstenberger (Fri 8 pm), Eric Gossman (Sun 7 am), Rob Crawford (Sun 9 am) and Mark Burnette (Sun 11 am). **ACOLYTES:** Nathan LeBorious (Thur 7 pm), Carolyn Harper (Fri 8 pm), Nathan LeBorious, Andrew LeBorious & Garrett Counselman (Sun 7 am), Maddy Hagemann, Tyler Longbine & Colton Wurdeman (Sun 9 am) and Chris Crawford (Sun 11 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Barbara Mabee (Thur 7 pm), Bill Bohm (Fri 8 pm), John Trichinotis (Sun 7 pm), Jim Morey (Sun 9 am) and D. J. Nelson (Sun 11 am). **GREETERS:** Champ & Pat Aldredge (Sun 7 am), Gary & Beverly Webb and Lynn & Koda Cook (Sun 9 am) and Dave & Lois Harter (Sun 11 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 65:17-25 and 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 39 Early – 53 Late – 149 Total – 241

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday	8:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
Saturday	NO Worship Service	
	10 am–12 pm	Easter Breakfast Prep
	2 – 4 pm	Easter Egg Hunt & Walk With Jesus
Next Sunday	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	7:45-9 am	Breakfast
	9:00 am	Easter Festival Service
	11:00 am	Easter Festival Service