

**As We Gather**

Easter is not merely a day but a season, and every year we begin the rest of the story with John's description of Thomas and his encounter with the risen Lord. Perhaps this is descriptive of our attitude as a church and as individual believers. We daily wrestle with our doubts and fears, with what it means to believe and what it means to confess our faith openly in the world. Could it be that we are so conditioned by the reality that is death that we struggle to hold on to the new reality of life that is ours in Christ? Thomas found out that seeing is not believing, but believing is seeing. We daily struggle with this very same truth.

**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 Sons and Daughters of the King"*            **Hymn #470, st. 1-4**

**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.**

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: "This Is the Feast of Victory"**

*Refrain*



© This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

### **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; 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 FIRST READING: Acts 5:12–20 *(Speak to all the people the words of life.)*

<sup>12</sup> Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup> None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup> But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup> they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

This is the Word of the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God.**

## THE SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4–18 *(Jesus says, "I am the first and the last. I died and now I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death.")*

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

<sup>14</sup> The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,  
<sup>15</sup> his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.  
<sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.  
<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,"  
<sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

**C** 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. John the twentieth chapter.

**C** Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: **John 20:19–31** (*Thomas doubts the Lord's resurrection and demands to see the wounds in Jesus' hands and side.*)

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."  
<sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.  
<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."  
<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."  
<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.  
<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

Vicar Tim Staffeld

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:** *"O Sons and Daughters of the King"*

**Hymn #470, st. 5-9**

**THE MESSAGE:**

**"Struggling with Doubt"**

Pastor Brighton

**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 ++

"Death has been swallowed up in victory! Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

**What do these words of the Apostle Paul mean to you personally?**

### OFFERTORY HYMN:

*"He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!"*

**He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
O hear, what cheer!  
Christ victorious, rising glorious, Life is giving.  
He was dead but now is living!**

## THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

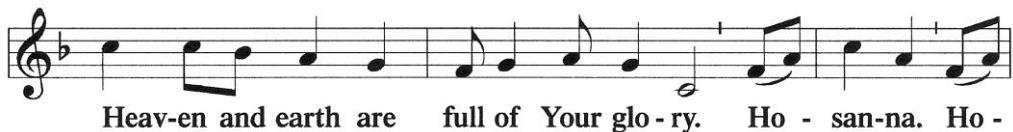
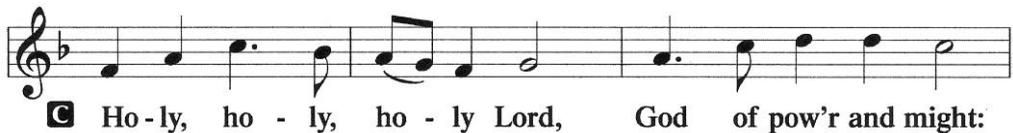
Lift up your hearts.

**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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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.**

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:**            *"Lord Jesus Christ, Life Giving Bread"*            Hymn #625  
   *"O Savior, Precious Savior"*            Hymn #527  
   *"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"*            Hymn #643

### **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord, give to us the vision of faith, that we may see not only with our eyes and fail to behold Your gift and blessing, but behold You through eyes of faith that trust in Your Word. Keep us from pride that would reject what we do not understand, and shape us in childlike faith to believe in You and do Your bidding without hesitation or fear; through Jesus Christ, 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:**            *"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!"*            Hymn #490

### **A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

### **THE POSTLUDE**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our Altar Flowers were provided this week** by Doug & Cindy Branham to the glory of God, and by Charles & Joan Smith, in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Mount Calvary has received gifts in memory of Ken Reilly** from Eileen Mittuch and Bruce & Barbara Bauman.

**Mount Calvary has received gifts in memory of Belle Wright** from Bruce & Barbara Bauman, Eileen Mittuch, Alyce Quillin, Margaret McLaughlin and Steve & Jan Kirchoff.

**Community Survey Results:** We visited about 30 households in the mobile home park just north of the church the weekend of March 12/13. We experienced exceptionally good visits, with about 10 households inviting us back; one man invited us back to explain how God has provided eternal life and another man because he was interested in Rebecca's Garden of Hope. Evangelism Explosion is following up on Monday nights. Many thanks to Bob Reynolds, Roger Moeller, Jerry Bisping, and Bruce Bauman for conducting the survey. Outreach Board.

**Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Greg Opolka** from Samie & Hiltraud Culpepper.

**Come out and support the church softball team!** This week's games: 1) Second Baptist - 6:30 on Tuesday at Peavy 2; and 2) Union Grove – 8:30 on Thursday at Peavy 2.

**The Lutheran Village Board** needs your opinion to continue with plans for the Senior Retirement Living Community. Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FS3LTZB> or pick up a copy at the Information Desk in the Narthex. The online form is to be printed. It is complete after your entries are calculated. We need this done by April 19<sup>th</sup> and you can leave the survey in the "Van Gorder" mailbox in the entryway.

**Pastor Eric Hollar & Family** are in need of a favor. Eric (our former Vicar), his wife, and 3 kids (and maybe his mom) are coming to Warner Robins for a wedding on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to find housing for the day before, Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. He said they have no problem going out for meals, as they just need a place to lay their bodies at night! If you can accommodate them, please let me know, and I will get the message to him. Ruthie Radcliff, 397-0630 or bigbluiz@att.net.

**Missing:** Does anyone happen to know what happened to the red velvet "Reserved" pew signs that we used to have? I believe there were two of them, but they can't be found. They're very useful for weddings and funerals! Please let me know if you have knowledge of where they might be. Thanks! Ruthie Radcliff

**High School TAG Night:** The next High School TAG Night is this Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Annex. TAG Nights are a time to gather for food, fun, and fellowship as we explore what God's Word has to say to Christians today as we continue to explore "Beware Christian".

**Middle School Party:** The next Middle School Party will be this Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 pm in the Annex. These parties are a great place for our youth to grow in their relationships with each other and introduce friends to the TAG family. Parties cost \$5/person which covers snacks, pizza, & beverages.

**Elementary Trip To Monkey Joes:** Children in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us next Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, from Noon – 3pm for a trip to Monkey Joes. The cost for this afternoon is \$12/person which will cover lunch and admission into Monkey Joes for an afternoon of bouncing & climbing fun. If you can help with driving, please let Pete or Mrs. Cynthia know. We will start at the annex at noon with lunch. Children can either be picked up at Monkey Joes by 2:45 or at the Annex at 3:00.

**Annual Golf-Tournament Fund-Raiser:** Our annual Youth Ministry Golf Tournament fund-raiser will be on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at The Waterford Country Club. The cost is \$45/golfer for an 18 hole scramble tournament, cart, & lunch. Golfers can buy additional "scoring aids" at the tournament: Mulligans (3/\$5), Red Bomb (\$5), & Free Throw (\$10). All proceeds to help support the Youth Ministry at Mount Calvary. You can sign up your team or as individuals at the information desk.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Monika Reynolds**, who is hospitalized.

**Michael Longbine**, who is recovering from surgery for a detached retina.

**Jeannette Poniske**, Fred Tamer's mom, who is hospitalized.

**Pat Aldredge**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

**Charleen Beahm**, who is recovering from parathyroid surgery.

**John Harmon**, who is recovering following foot surgery.

**Hiltraud Culpepper**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

**Hazel Stockelman**, Nancy Branscom's sister, who is in rehab for heart problems.

**Dwight Miller**, who is home, but still very weak.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Peggy Rodriguez, Carol LeBorious (Pete's mother), Mike Finnegan (Barbara Jernigan's brother), 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, 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 Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

### **Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas**

Benjamin Brighton, Emily Whaley, Rodney Hood, Matthew Forehand, 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:** Eric Gossman (8 am) and Bill Gragg (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Andrew LeBorious (8 am) and Colton Wurdeman (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early - Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus. **ALTAR GUILD:** Jan Clark, Marcia Brighton, Denise Forehand, Nancy Hoar & Valerie Counselman. **LAY READERS:** Laird Van Gorder (8 am) and Don Netzing (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Nick Jenkins. Late – Caleb & D J Nelson.

## SERVING US NEXT WEEK

**ELDERS:** Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Mark Burnette (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Maddy Hagemann (Sat 6 pm), Abigail Halsell (Sun 8 am) and Zoe Bowden (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Jan Clark, Marcia Brighton, Denise Forehand, Nancy Hoar & Valerie Counselman. **LAY READERS:** David Miller (Sat 6 pm), Kathy Robinson (Sun 8 am) and Julie Dimes (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Laird & Judy Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and Chet & Nancy Branscom (Sun 10:45 am).

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 9:1-22 and Revelation 5:1-14

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

**Sunrise – 129    9 am Festival – 201    11 am Festival – 137    Total – 467**

## 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
	6:30 pm	Boards
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Softball
	7:30 pm	Elders
	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	5:30 pm	Dinner
Thursday	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	8:30 pm	Softball
	6 – 9 pm	Middle School Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	12 – 3 pm	Elementary Trip to Monkey Joes
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting