

As We Gather

The Sundays of Easter all reflect Easter Day itself in some way. Jesus reminds His disciples that He is going back to the Father and that things will be changing here on earth. He has shared with them enough of His message and His presence that He can return to the Father in heaven, knowing that the fruits of His resurrection will continue after His departure as the promised Holy Spirit continues to work among the apostles and others. From those first days after the resurrection down to our own time, all Christians are assured and confident Easter people!

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: *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* **Hymn #411**

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: "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

**Sing praise to God, the highest good,
The author of creation,
The God of love who understood
Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!**

**All who confess Christ's holy name,
Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim
Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne
For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son spoke directly and lovingly with His disciples and gave them the knowledge of everlasting life. Grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and guide us in that way which leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 16:9–15 *(Paul travels to Macedonia on his missionary journey.)*

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM:

"O Sing to the Lord"

Sanctuary Choir

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27 (*The heavenly Jerusalem is a vision of glory.*)

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

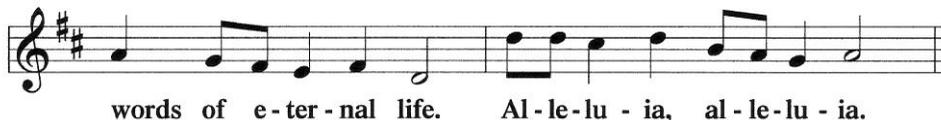
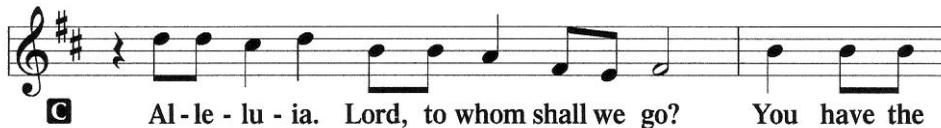
²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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. John the sixteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 16:23–33 (*Jesus speaks of leaving the world and returning to the Father.*)

²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Cynthia Nelson
Director of Children's Ministries

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"The Church's One Foundation"

Hymn #644

THE MESSAGE:

"The Bride's Dress"

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 ++

"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:

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of Grace
That issues from Your holy face.**

**Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your Grace.**

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 our duty and our delight at all times and in all places to give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Above all, we bless You that You have called us by name to be Yours and have established a plan for our lives. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your peace and abiding joy, dear Lord, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C 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.



C 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 moms or those allergic to alcohol.)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:	<i>"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"</i>	Hymn #621
	<i>"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"</i>	Hymn #702
	<i>"O Word of God Incarnate"</i>	Hymn #523

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in the fellowship of the Church and together with all the saints do the good works that You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and 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:	<i>"On What Has Now Been Sown"</i>	Hymn #921
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A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Dave & Ruthie Radcliff, in celebration of the first birthday of their grandson, Turner, and also the upcoming birthdays of their other grandkids: Leland (5), Maddux (4), Piper (3) and Joey (3).

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Ken Reilly from Darron & Valerie Counselman.

Mount Calvary has received a gift in memory of Mae Channell, Dale's mother, from John & Marie White.

Come out and support the church softball team! This week's games: 1) Second Baptist- 7:30 on Tuesday at Peavy 2; and 2) SSBC Soul'd Out – 7:30 on Thursday at Peavy 2.

Make sure to like the Mount Calvary GA on Facebook! Also, check out the Twitter and Instagram pages, too. Our social media sites have tons of great content and church news!

Interested in playing on a summer adult volleyball team? Contact Eric Gossman at egossman@wrqa.gov.

Trinity Woods Camp is having a cleanup work day on May 7th beginning at 7:30 am. Lunch will be provided for those in the 'head count' at 9:00 am. Bring gloves, water and plenty of energy. A project list will be posted. Come help your sister Congregation. Lots of renovation is being done at the Camp now to enhance the facility. Praise the Lord!

High School TAG Night: The next High School TAG Night is this Sunday, May 1st, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Annex. TAG Nights are a time for our High School Youth to gather for food, fun, and fellowship as we explore what God's Word has to say to Christians today as we wrap up our series on "Beware Christian".

Wednesday Night Wrap-Up: The final Wednesday Night Christian Education & Fellowship will be May 4th. High School WAMs will begin June 1st but everyone else will be on break until August.

Middle School Party: The next Middle School Party will be Friday, May 6th, 6-9 pm in the Annex. Middle School 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.

9th Annual Welcome to High School Road Rally: The 9th Annual TAG Road Rally will be Saturday, May 7th, 3-7 pm. This event is for all youth in 8th – 12th grade and their friends. The Road Rally is kind of on-the-road scavenger hunt for the ultimate group picture! It is also the first official High School event for the 8th grade youth who will soon be confirmed. The cost is \$5/person covers dinner and trophies (8th graders are free!) We meet and finish things up at the Annex!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jim Nicholas, Michelle Crawford's dad, who was moved to hospice care in Searcy, AL, this week.

Diane Doyle, who has been having severe stomach pains.

Monika Reynolds, who is hospitalized with hip problems.

Keep In Your Prayers

Michael Longbine, Charleen Beahm, John Harmon, Hiltraud Culpepper, Pat Aldredge, Peggy Rodriguez, Carol LeBorious (Pete's mother), Mike Finnegan (Barbara Jernigan's brother), Kurt Rover, Sallie Brinkley, Sandi Jacobsmeyer, 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: Vicar Tim Staffeld. **LITURGIST:** Pastor Dave Brighton. **ELDERS:** Gary Hadley (8 am) and Bill Gragg (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Carolyn Harper (8 am) and Libby Parsons (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:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Dick Kesler (8 am) and Roger Moeller (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Lyle Wurdeman. Late – Kyle Webb.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and D. J. Nelson (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Tyler Longbine (Sat 6 pm), Andrew LeBorious (Sun 8am) and Maddy Hagemann (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Keith Dierking (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Carolyn Burnam (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Caroline Martin (Sun 8 am) and Gary & Beverly Webb with Lynn & Koda Cook (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 1:12-26 and Revelation 22:1-20

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 35 Early – 96 Late – 149 Total - 280

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	9:30 am	Ladies Guild
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
	7:30 pm	Softball
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Softball
Friday	6 – 9 pm	Middle School Party
Saturday	3 – 7 pm	Welcome to High School Road Rally
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday		MOTHERS DAY