

As We Gather

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, through the course of the year we will be singing the hymns of Martin Luther. For the Sundays in Advent we will sing a portion of his hymn, "Savior of the Nations, Come" as our opening hymn each week.

We join with the people of God in welcoming the steadfast love of God revealed to us in his beloved Son. Let the words, Scripture verses, hymns, litanies and prayers of this worship experience remind us of the Gift of Love we get to "unwrap" through the birth of Jesus and the privilege we have of sharing that great love with others.

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:**

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

**Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here You home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.**

**Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**

**Glory to the Father Sing,
Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

THE INVOCATION

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

Amen.

Every good and perfect gift is from heaven above,

Coming down from the Father of lights.

We gather to celebrate the good and perfect gift of love.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to our loving and gracious heavenly Father.

(please kneel)

Loving Father, we know Your love is perfect, but our love for You and our neighbors often falls short.

We know that love is patient.

But we grow impatient.

Love is kind.

But we push and shove.

Love does not envy.

But we covet and demand.

Love does not boast.

But we are pompous and proud.

Love keeps no record of wrongs.

But we compute, calculate, catalog and refuse to let it go.

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

But our love is fickle, finite and so frequently fails. For the sake of Jesus, please forgive our unloving ways. Amen.

I announce the grace of God to you, for in the name of Jesus you have God's sure and certain unfailing love—sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot His love erase. Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace. He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiven. His children thus securing eternal life in heaven. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE LOVE CANDLE

On this second Sunday in Advent we light a second candle and call it Love. This is love.

Not that we loved God,

But that He loved us.

We call this candle Love because God showed His love among us

And sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Let us love one another, for love comes from God!

THE HYMN:

"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

**What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!**

**A banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.**

**Come, Jesus come, Messiah Lord,
Lost paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword
Come, open heaven's door.**

(As the hymn stanzas are sung, Dick and Judy Hamilton will light the candles on the Advent wreath at the 8:00 am service. Neal and Marilu Cowan will light the candles at the 10:45 am service.)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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 OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 54:7-10 *(God declares His unshakable love.)*

⁷ For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. ⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer. ⁹ "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

"O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort"

Sanctuary Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7-11 (*God's love and ours.*)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

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 third chapter.

Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:13-17 (*God loved the world so that He gave His only Son!*)

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pastor David Brighton

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

Hymn #334 st. 1-4

THE MESSAGE:

Rev. Greg Walton
President, Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

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 ++

Advent brings the start of a brand new church year—a time of expectation and hope

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior! Think about the ways

You will prepare your heart this year to celebrate Jesus' birth!

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." (Matthew 3:3)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shall choose.**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

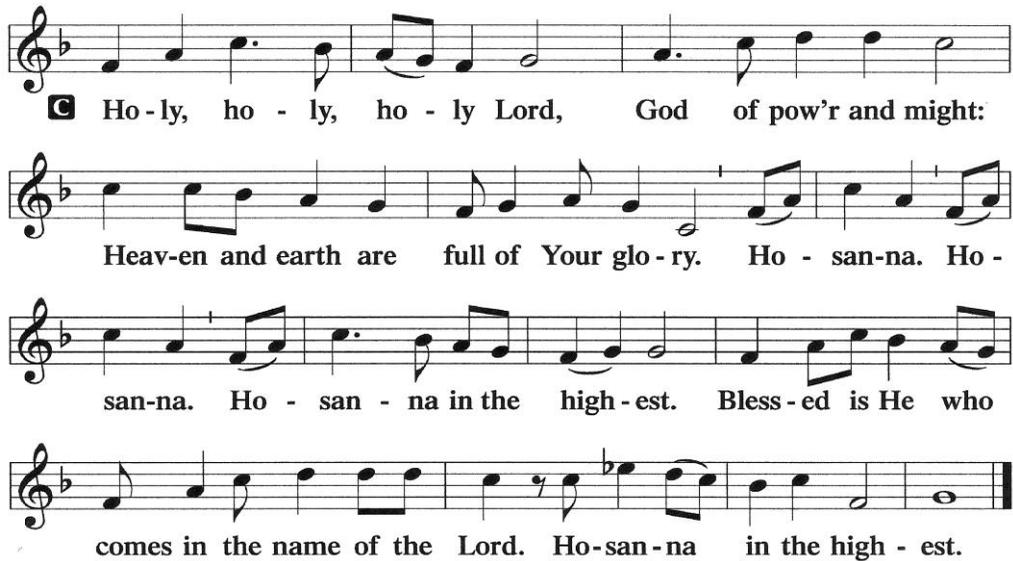
Lift up your hearts.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



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 pregnant moms or those allergic to alcohol.)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

<i>"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"</i>	Hymn #621
<i>"How Can I Thank You, Lord"</i>	Hymn #703
<i>"How Wide the Love of Christ"</i>	Hymn #535
(hymn tune: 'Tis Good Lord to be Here)	

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank You, Lord Jesus, for calling us to repentance and for the gift of forgiveness. We praise You for making us one as the Body of Christ, united in Your Spirit. Sustain us through what has been received, that we continue to live in Your grace and bear fruit in Your name until we, 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: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* **Hymn #343**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to Florida-Georgia District President, Rev. Greg Walton, for joining us today and for proclaiming God's word to us! President Walton was elected to his third term as our District President at the District Convention in 2015 and he oversees the District staff, participates in the Council of Presidents, makes many congregational visits for special events (such as anniversaries and installations), and is a "pastor to the pastors" of the Florida-Georgia District. We thank President Walton for taking time from his busy schedule to be with us this weekend!

Luther Hymns: Martin Luther, along with his important contribution to the Reformation in THEOLOGY, was also a big contributor in HYMNOLOGY. Luther wrote a number of hymns and was instrumental in bringing hymn singing to the people. In big part thanks to his efforts, the Lutheran church became known as the "Singing Church!" Throughout this Church Year as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we will include some of Luther's hymns in our liturgy. During this Advent season we will sing verses from "***Savior of the Nations, Come***" which is Luther's Advent hymn. It beautifully tells the story of the Christchild coming into this world to save us.

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Steve & Jackie Kaestner, in honor of their grandson Jaxon's birthday, and by Nicolas & Holly Hartley, in honor of Adalyn & Brielle's baptisms.

The Angel Tree has been placed in the entrance of the church to give us a chance to help those that are less fortunate. Please take an angel or two and buy the gift requested on the Angel, have back to the church by the Return No Later Date on the bottom of each Angel. Those who will be donating gift cards may place the card in a Christmas Wrapped box in Vicar's office (the gift cards will be picked up each day). **IMPORTANT:** Please place the gift (if it is a gift) requested in a Christmas bag UNWRAPPED along with the Angel, this will insure that we get the right gift to the child or nursing home patient. Thank you so much for your generosity, the community appreciates your kindness.



Mt. Calvary has received a gift in memory of Bobby Wolfe from Carl & Barbara Mabee.

Mt. Calvary has received a gift in memory of Josie Kong, Evy Keyes' mom, from Vivian Stilley.

Attention PrimeTimers: We have had a change of plans for our Christmas party. Because of obstacles in the new management of the Landings we had to cancel there. We are very sorry this did not work out. Our new party will be at El Bronco, on Watson Blvd on Sunday, December 18th 5:30 PM. If you plan to come, you need to sign up on the sign-up Sheet as El Bronco wants a good count right away. It will be in their Party Room. Each couple is asked to bring one wrapped (or bagged) "White Elephant Gift" for our Gift Exchange. Hope to see you there.

Ushers Urgently Needed: Due to relocation and job commitments, we have two vacancies on one of the 8 am Usher Teams. If you can help fill one of the vacancies, please call Don Parrott at 922-6106 or email him at parrottd1@cox.net.

Please join the Members and Friends of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 1899 Tucker Road, Macon as we celebrate 65 years of God's Grace on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. during a Special Service featuring the speaker, Rev. David C. Brighton. Reception following the service.

Attention all bakers!! *Rough Wood and Rusty Nails* needs your help again. We need to people to bake cookies for after the play. If you are interested please sign-up at the back counter or contact Molly Townsend at 478-988-9991.



Helping Hands Christmas Dinner: Our 12th annual Helping Hands Christmas Dinner is coming up! The dinner will take place on Christmas Day from 12 – 2 PM. We will need plenty of volunteers to help in the kitchen, serving, greeting, and delivering food during that time. We will also need a handful of people for a morning shift to help set up and prepare most of our food in the kitchen. Lastly we will need at least a small crew for take down and clean up after the meal is finished. However, if you cannot make it to help on Christmas there are many other things we need help with! We still need a lot of people willing to prepare a turkey or ham ahead of time (drop off times TBD on the 23rd & 24th or another time coordinated with me). Also I will need a crew of people willing to help me set up and decorate the gym at First Methodist on the afternoon of the 23rd. This dinner truly is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community and share the love of Christ, but I need all of you to make it a successful one! If you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime!

- In Christ, Vicar Aaron



**The Flower Chart for 2017 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Alyce Quillin, who had hip surgery on November 29th.

Margaret Jennings, who is hospitalized.

Cameron Mastenbrook, who is recovering from knee surgery.

Rosie Schulz, who is in rehab.

Laura Haas, who is in rehab, but struggling with pneumonia.

Keep In Your Prayers

Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), John White, Barb Mabee, Pastor Brighton, Bev Ellgass, Tracie Frey, Alyce Quillin, Doris Snow, Mike Longbine, 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: Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Aaron Gittner, Benjamin Brighton, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: President Walton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Bill Gragg (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Christopher Crawford (8 am) and Abigail Halsell (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:** Marcia Brighton, Valerie Counselman, Denise Forehand & Nancy Hoar. **LAY READERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) and Cindy Schafer (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Nick Jenkins. Late – Caleb & D. J. Nelson.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger. **ACOLYTES:** Lynn Cook (Sat 6 pm), Abby Soisson (Sun 8 am) and Koda Cook (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Marcia Brighton, Valerie Counselman, Denise Forehand & Nancy Hoar. **LAY READERS:** Keith Dierking (Sat 6 pm), Bob Reynolds (8 am) and Carolyn Burnam (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Gary & Lexie Hadley (Sun 8 am) and John & Marie White (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Psalm 98 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Thanksgiving Eve - 89

Saturday – 43 Early – 79 Late – 151 Total – 273

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	12:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens
	5:30 pm	TAG Night
	7:00 pm	RWRN Dress Rehearsal
Monday	10:00 am	Ladies Guild
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4:00 pm	RG@MC Tutoring
	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
Friday	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
6 – 8 pm	Middle School	Christmas Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	6:30 – 8:30 pm	High School Christmas Party