

As We Gather

There are uncertainties in this new year. Will we be in want? Will we enjoy prosperity? Will there be circumstances in our world, nation, and family that tempt us to be fearful? In the face of future unknowns, take comfort in what is known about the new year – the loving grace of God! We can be certain that no matter what this year brings, God's grace shown in Jesus Christ our Savior is sufficient.

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:***"Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"***Hymn #900****THE INVOCATION**

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

Amen.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place

In all generations.

So teach us to number our days

That we may get a heart of wisdom.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

At the beginning of this year, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(please kneel)

Heavenly Father,

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.

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-21) As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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: *"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"*

**Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year just ended and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 30:8–17 (*"A signal on a hill"*)

⁸ And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. ⁹ For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; ¹⁰ who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, ¹¹ leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

¹² Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, ¹³ therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴ and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern."

¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. ¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:31b-39 (*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"*)

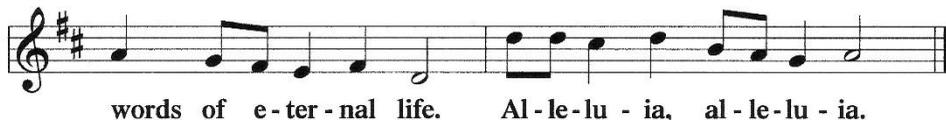
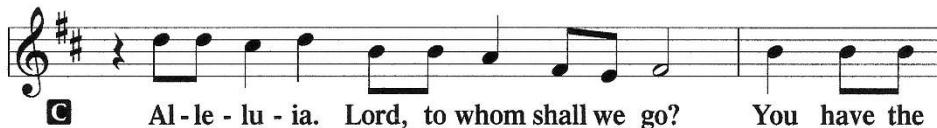
³¹ If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

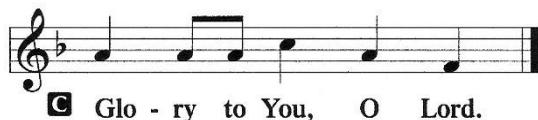
Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:



THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

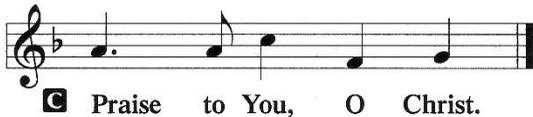
The Holy Gospel according to St John the twelfth chapter.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:35–40 (*Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.*)

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pastor Brighton

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn #733

THE MESSAGE:

"The Year of Our Lord"

Pastor David 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 ++

We don't know what the new year may hold, but we know who holds us in His almighty hand! Whatever happens this year, may God bless us that our lives point others to Him and give Him glory and honor and praise!

"I am continually with You; You hold my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will receive me to glory." (Psalm 73:23-24)

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.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

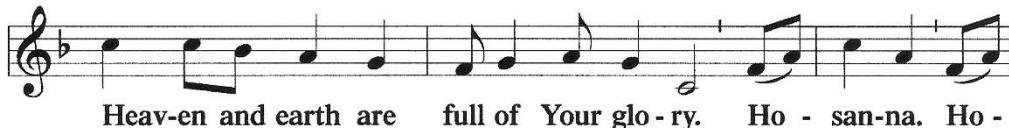
Lift up your hearts.

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, for You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Your love has sustained us in the past year, and we trust Your promise that nothing can separate us from Your love shown in Christ in the year to come. 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.

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.)*

Sue Glaser's Monday Night small group will not meet till January 9th.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 21st at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Men's Choir will rehearse immediately following the breakfast and will sing on January 22nd.

All Elders and Ushers are asked to attend a Safety Seminar on Saturday, January 21st at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Seminar will include training for providing First Aid (CPR/AED) as well as a comprehensive review of the Mt. Calvary Emergency Action Plan.

I just want to thank the entire congregation for their Christmas gift. I truly have been blessed over these past five months to have been here at Mt. Calvary! I look forward to what God has in store for all of us in the new year! - Thanks, Vicar Aaron

Thank you! Marcia and I would like to thank our church family for your generous gift, as well as the many cards and other gifts we received this Christmas. We appreciate so much being part of such a loving and caring church family! May God bless us all in the New Year! *Pastor and Marcia Brighton*

Mt. Calvary has received a gift in memory of Betsy Luppino from David & Melessia Razo.

2017 Offering envelopes are ready. You can pick yours up on the tables near the information desk. If you want offering envelopes and don't find yours on the table, please call Jack in the office.

Great news! The online marketing firm, Amazon is now offering to donate 0.5% of the amount of all orders to the charity of your choice, and it costs you (and our church) nothing! Naturally, many of our members and friends may want to take advantage of this "free money" for our church. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/hdv9vhh> to learn how to activate this benefit, or just go to the church website main page and click on "Amazon Smile" under "Announcements." An Amazon page will open and you can learn from there how to set it up. Just please be sure to designate Mount Calvary Lutheran Church as the beneficiary.

Helping Hands Christmas Dinner Recap – Once again, with the help of the Warner Robin's Community, our congregation was able to put on a successful Christmas Dinner! At the dinner we were able to feed about 70 visitors, while giving away books, toys, purses, toiletries, bread, and other items. However, the biggest success of this year's dinner was the deliveries, we were able to send out well over 150 meals to families in need! It is truly a wonderful service that we were able to provide as one of our ways of saying "thank you" to our God for all that he has provided us with! Now, I need to say thank you to all of you, because this event could not have taken place without the full support of this congregation. All in all we had over 75 volunteers show up to help on Christmas Day, and that doesn't include the several dozen families who helped set up, donated money, bought and prepared food, or helped spread the word! The amount of effort, from so many different people, that went into making this happen is astounding. This event is a perfect example of the amazing things that can be done through God's love within the Body of Christ. I truly cannot thank you all enough for going above and beyond to make this year's dinner a success! In Christ, Vicar Aaron

Thank you to all who sent us Christmas cards, gift cards, and the special monetary gift on Christmas Eve. We have certainly been blessed by our church family. We love Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, and we appreciate the many Christmas gifts from you. God's blessings to you in the New Year!! Let's remember in the 500th year of the Reformation...it is still all about Jesus!!

- The Nelson Family

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Monika Reynolds, who died on December 27th.

Ronald Ragan, Regina's brother, who had heart surgery on December 30th to open blocked arteries.

Walt & Cheryl Stafford, who were in an automobile accident, but are okay.

Laura Haas, who is hospitalized and on a ventilator.

Keep In Your Prayers

Opal Key (Dianne Damron's mother), Ruth Brighton (Pastor's mother), Alyce Quillin, Margaret Jennings, Cameron Mastenbrook, Rosie Schulz, Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), John White, Pastor Brighton, Bev Ellgass, 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: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Open (Sun 8 am) & Bob Gerstenberger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Open. **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 READER:** Bob Reynolds (8 am) & Roger Moeller (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONIST:** Early - Lyle Wurdeman. Late – Kyle Webb.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) & D. J. Nelson (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Sway Cronin (Sun 8 am) & Maddy Hagemann (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Megan Shores (Sat 6 pm), Lexie Hadley (Sun 8 am) and Pat Aldredge (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Open (Sun 8 am), and Open (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Romans 6:1-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday 5 pm – 108 7 pm – 227 10 pm - 144 Total - 479
Sunday Christmas Service - 90
Karenni Christmas Worship - 140

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Monday	Church Closed	
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	5:30 pm	Christian Fellowship & Education
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	6 – 9 pm	Middle School Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	12-1:30 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting