

As We Gather

What do you do when it seems the entire culture is against you? The vast majority of people don't attend worship of any kind; what the Bible calls "sin" is not only acceptable, but preferred; anyone who doesn't agree with the majority is ridiculed or persecuted. Sound like our world today? Yep! But this was also the world in Elijah's day. Standing against the culture isn't easy, but it's what our God calls us to do. Today we'll see what Elijah can teach us about standing against the culture.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Hymn #423

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.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Chorus:

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. (chorus)**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. (chorus)**

By Kathleen Thomerson ©1970 Celebration Admin. The Copyright Co.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, whose grace attends us all our days, look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps into pathways of peace, and keep safe our going out and our coming in. Preserve us in Your righteousness, and at last bring us to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 18:20-40 *(Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal.)*

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." ²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," ³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." ³⁴ And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. ³⁵ And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." ⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM: *"My Song is Love Unknown"*

Sanctuary Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 5:8–14 (*Paul calls on us to walk as children of the light.*)

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

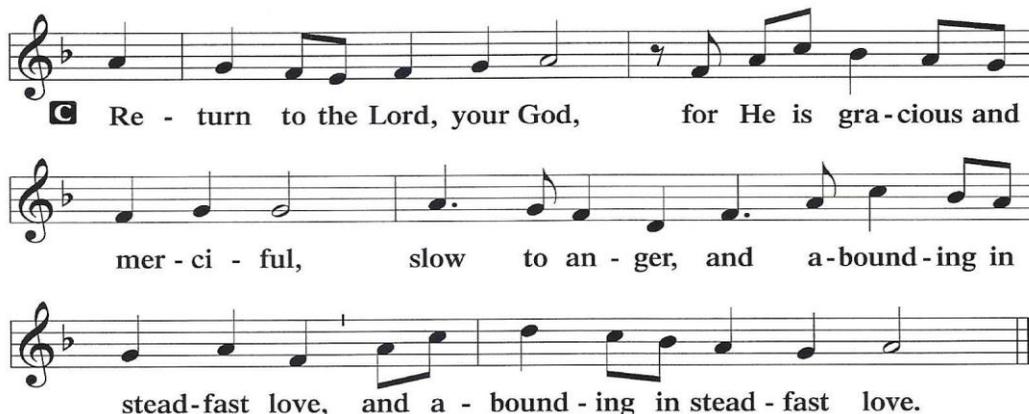
³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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. John the ninth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39 (*Jesus heals a man who was born blind.*)

¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Mt. Calvary Puppet Ministry

THE MESSAGE:

"Elijah: Standing Against the Culture"

Pastor Brighton

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Hymn #660

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

The Lenten season calls on us to remember that we are but dust and ashes. It is not WE who can present anything to God to merit forgiveness – it is GOD who comes to us and speaks the words every sinner longs to hear: "Your sins are forgiven you. Go in peace!"

THE OFFERTORY:

"Lord Of All Good"

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now.
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, *"Hear our prayer."*

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 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:

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Hymn #662

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

All scripture quotations are from The English Standard Version, copyright © 2009 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Doug & Deb Fingles, in celebration of Deb's birthday and of their wedding anniversary, and by Carl & Barb Mabee, in honor of the birthday of their son, Scott.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have all items for the April newsletter in to the office by March 27th.

Help Needed! Due to a number of circumstances our faithful teller teams have suffered a number of losses recently. To avoid over extending our current teams we need several members to fill a number of vacancies. Ideally, teller teams take turns counting every five or six weeks. Experience is not a requirement as new team members can be paired with experienced people for training. If you are willing to help, please contact a member of the Board of Stewardship. Steve Hetes 478-919-4432.

Thank You to all my Mt Calvary friends for the prayers, cards and food that I received. God is awesome and I am on the road to recovery, but not there, yet. Thank you again. - Bev Ellgass

Mount Calvary has received memorial donations in memory of Betty Ragan, Regina's mom, from Toby & Lorraine Jenson and Bob & Nancy Gerstenberger.

Mount Calvary has received a memorial donation in memory of Laura Haas from J. T. & Debi Cole.

Red Cross Blood Drive: MCLC is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, March 27, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. in the fellowship hall. Minimum requirements to donate are age 17, 110 pounds, and good health. There are two ways to schedule an appointment: use the signup sheet on the information counter or go to the Red Cross website, "redcrossblood.org" and key on "Give Blood", and then "By Date" or "By Distance." Donating a pint of blood can save up to 3 lives. We also need volunteers to register donors for just one hour beginning at either 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, or 6:00 pm. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Bruce Bauman.

Walk with Jesus and Easter Egg Hunt- Mark your calendar for this year's Walk with Jesus. Join us on April 15, 2017, 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 are on the information desk! 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.

Donations needed for Easter Egg Hunt: Cakes and cookies needed for the Walk with Jesus refreshment room. We also need candy for the goody bags that are given out after the Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your donations to the church office, give to Cynthia, or put them by Cynthia's office. Thank you so much for your help in this Easter outreach event!!

New blanket project this year! It's Blankets for Puerto Rico's Head Start Program. The blankets will be given to the 4-year-olds at the end of the school year. The fleece has already been purchased. Needed: people to cut & tie fleece (4" fringe, please); people to tie the fringe after it's been cut; and people to turn under the edges of the fleece & top stitch. Please pray for the success of the project. For questions see Diane Doyle cell #217-898-3836 email dldoyle67@live.com.

High School - TAG Night: The next High School TAG Night is this Sunday, March 26th, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Annex. TAG Nights are a great way to start the week off right! Join us as we gather for food, fun, and fellowship & explore God's Word.

Middle Georgia Community Food Bank: Change in Day! We will be serving at the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank on TUESDAY, March 28th. We will meet at church at 8:00 am and return around 4:00. Lunch will be provided for all workers.

High School Spring Retreat: The High School Youth will be going to the Calvin Center the weekend of April 7-9 for the Spring Retreat. The cost for the weekend is \$75/person (covers housing and meals). The purpose of the retreat is to get away and reconnect in our relationship with our Lord and Savior and one another as we get refreshed for the last stretch of the school year. (Pete still needs one dad to help with chaperoning.)

Party With Marty: This week Marty will be hanging out at Council Planning Retreat next Saturday, April 1st, between 11 am and noon! Come for the picture, stay and help clean!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Steve Hetes, who is recovering from surgery.

Kathy Clark, Barb Jernigan's sister, who is awaiting results of a breast biopsy.

D. J. Nelson, who is awaiting biopsy results from a pancreatic cyst.

Cynthia Trichinotis, who is resting at home, awaiting test results.

Shirley Ermi, who is very ill.

Helen Giese, who is recovering from heart surgery on March 23rd.

Keep In Your Prayers

John Steese (Joan's son), Katilyn Yarbrough, Jeanne Day (Bob's mom), Bev Ellgass, Pat Aldredge, Mary Jean Boyette, Jeannie Hawkins, Jan Clark, Kim Rekau, Bill Bohm, Cynthia Trichinotis, Neal Cowan, Margaret Jennings, Opal Key (Dianne Damron's mother), Denise Forehand, Hiltraud Culpepper, Gunner Burnam (Carolyn's great-nephew), Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

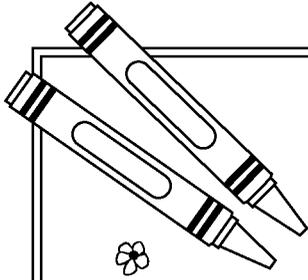
(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Chet Branscom, Jace Cumbie (Amanda McVay's boyfriend's son), Diana Iverson (Bonnie Hudlin's sister-in-law), 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

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



Just for KIDS

Isaiah 35:1-2

One sign of spring and rebirth is the appearance of flowers and plants in our yards, woods, fields and gardens.

Use the code to find this verse in Isaiah that reminds us of spring and rebirth.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

;

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Glen Thompson (8 am) & Don Netzinger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (8 am) & Zoe Babcock (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Dick Kesler, Brent Durbin, Doug Fingles & Doug Branham. Late – D. J. Nelson, Don Netzinger, Adam Beecher, Dave Miller, Bob Day & Larry Ellgass. **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) & Dave Radcliff (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Nick Jenkins. Late – Josh Johnson.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Gary Hadley (Wed 7 pm), Open (Sat 6 pm), Gary Hadley (Sun 8 am) & Open (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Lynn Cook (Wed 7 pm), Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Sara Van Lannen (Sun 8 am) & Koda Cook (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Roger Moeller (Wed 7 pm), Pruett Burge (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Dave Radcliff (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Pat Stetzler (Sun 8 am), and John & Marie White (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Galatians 3:1-9, 21-29

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday - 42 Early – 88 Late - 155 Total –285
Karenni Worship: 62

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	6:30 pm	Student Leadership Development Team Meeting
Monday	3 – 8 pm	Blood Drive
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	Rebecca's Garden of Hope Tutoring
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Worship
	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	9 am – 2 pm	Council Planning Retreat
	3:00 pm	Karenni Bible Study (Annex)
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	6:30 pm	Teens About God Night