

**As We Gather**

Some people have a hard time understanding the difference between God's law and God's grace. God's law functions as a curb ("do this, don't do this") on our sinful nature and is also helpful as the rules by which we live (known as the "third use of the law"). God's grace – the gospel – always functions as the good news of what God has done for us. If you try to earn God's grace, you will fail. Grace is always received, not earned. Think about these things as you hear the Epistle reading from Galatians chapter three and Paul's discussion concerning the law and the gospel.

**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:**

***"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"***

**Hymn #702**

**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:**        ***"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"***

**Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His and He is mine.**

**O, my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray. O Lord and giver of life, You call Your people from death and despair to faith and faithfulness. In Christ, we are assured of resurrection and life. Enlighten our hearts that we may have a right understanding in all things and may rejoice in the power and blessing of Your Word among us. This we ask through 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 OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 37:1–14** *(Life is restored in the Valley of Dry Bones)*

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE EPISTLE READING: Galatians 3:1-9, 21-29** *(Paul addresses the problem of works righteousness and points the Galatians to God's grace.)*

<sup>1</sup> O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

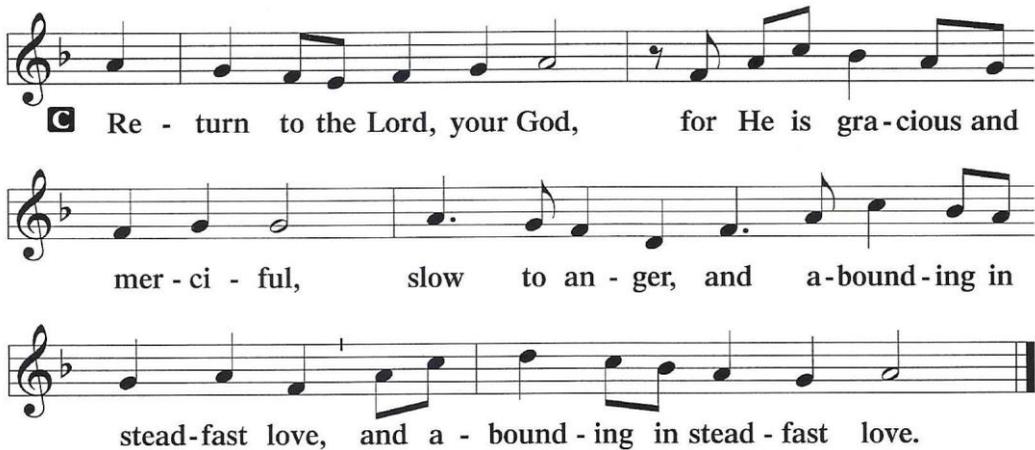
<sup>21</sup> Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

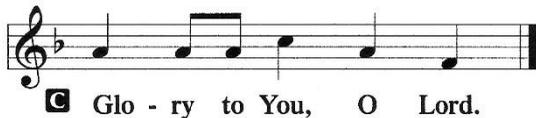
**THE VERSE FOR LENT: "Return to the Lord"**



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 eleventh chapter.

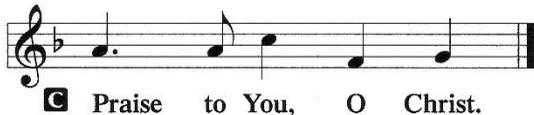


Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:17-27** (*The sign of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.*)

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.  
<sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

Pastor Brighton

**THE MESSAGE:**

Vicar Aaron Sterling

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY:**

***"In Christ Alone"***

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;  
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh;  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

By Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
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## 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 ++

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!"

## OFFERTORY HYMN:

*"Create in Me"*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir - it with  
in me. Cast me not a-way from Your pres-ence and take not Your  
Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion  
and up - hold me with Your free Spir - it

## THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

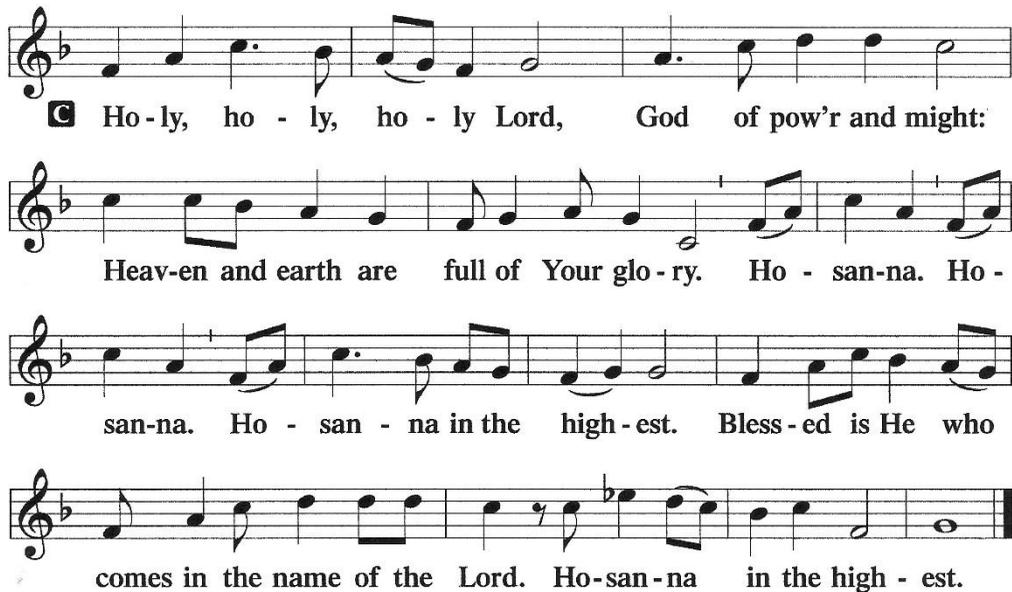
Lift up your hearts.

**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 now we bless You that in Jesus Christ You have shown us Your plan for us to live forever. As Jesus proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life," we find in Him the fullness of Your forgiving and limitless love. By the working of the Holy Spirit, grant us grace to grow in faith throughout this Passiontide, remaining steadfast in hope as we await the joys of heaven. 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

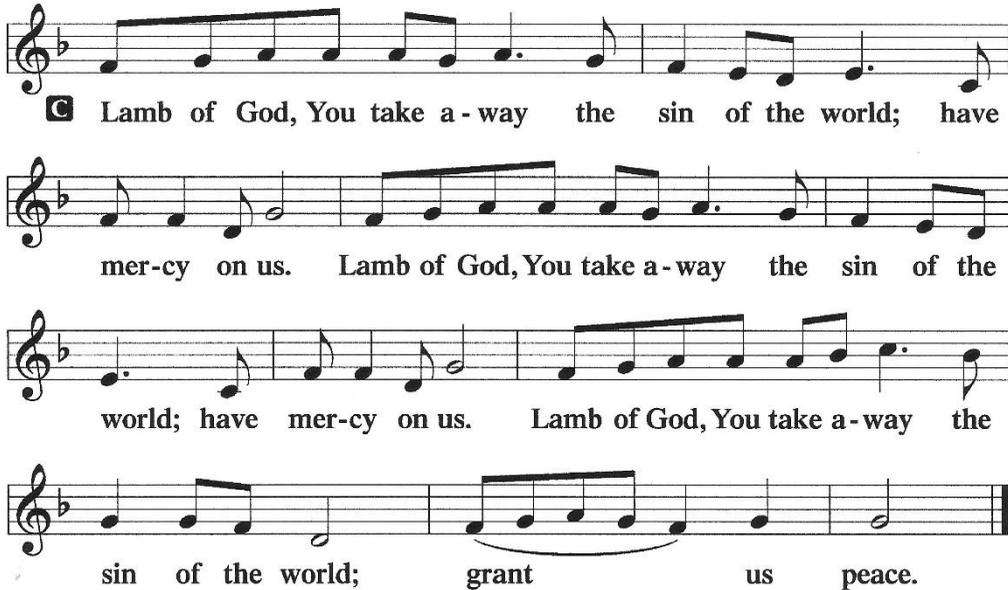
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the 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.**



© 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.)*

<b>DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:</b>	<b>"The Lamb"</b>	<b>Hymn #547</b>
	<b>"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"</b>	<b>Hymn #421</b>
	<b>"What Wondrous Love Is This"</b>	<b>Hymn #543</b>

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give You thanks, our Father, for the life and knowledge You have revealed to us through Jesus, Your Son. To You be glory forever. We bless You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. Sanctify us by the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do as we await the final resurrection and fullness of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now 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.**

<b>THE CLOSING HYMN:</b>	<b>"When I Behold Jesus Christ"</b>	<b>Hymn #542</b>
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## A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

### THE POSTLUDE

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#### PRAYER CONCERNS

**Ralph Wenrick**, who is hospitalized with an enlarged prostate.

**Frances Trichinotis**, John's mother, who is hospitalized.

**Helen Giese**, who has a blood clot in her brain and was taken to Emory for surgery.

**The family of Henry Gasperson**, Denise Forehand's cousin, who died on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandy Snow**, daughter-in-law of Ray & Doris, who is having seizures.

**Steve Hetes**, who is recovering from surgery.

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

#### Keep In Your Prayers

Kathy Clark (Barb Jernigan's sister), Cynthia Trichinotis, Shirley Ermi, 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, Neal Cowan, Opal Key (Dianne Damron's mother), 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Altar Flowers were provided this week** by Alyce Quillin, in loving memory of Hank Quillin.

**Thanks from the Gideons** to all who gave a free-will offering last week. The total was \$1,369. Thank you for your generosity!

**Men's Breakfast for April** will be at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited! The sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk.

**The Church Softball Team** begins its season with a bang! There are three games this week – Monday at 8:30 pm, Tuesday at 6:30 pm and Thursday at 6:30 pm. The team will have next week off for Holy Week. Come on out and cheer on your team! All games are played at Peavy Field.

**Thank you to everyone** who provided food for the potluck for the Concordia Academy Choir on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Pastor & Marcia Brighton and My Father's Place for the generous food donations. Thanks to everyone who helped at the dinner and with clean-up, and everyone who came to listen to the choir. They were impressed with the number of people in the Sanctuary. Special thanks to everyone who opened their homes to host youth for the evening. God Bless this Amazing Church for your willing spirit to share Christ's love. - Tian & Roger Foss

**Community Survey:** We will conduct community surveys on Saturday, April 8, and Sunday, April 9 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm both days. The purpose is twofold: 1) identify households without a church home to let them know we care about them and 2) inform them of our Easter Worship Services and our Easter Egg Hunt with the *Walk with Jesus*. The survey is easy to do and there will be a short training session before leaving for the visits. Teams of at least two people will make the visits. Signup sheets and a copy of the survey form that is used will be in the narthex on the information counter. If you have any questions, talk to Bruce Bauman.

**Flowering Cross Coming to Mt. Calvary!** This Easter, Mt. Calvary would like to have a "Flowering Cross" that will stand out front of the entrance on Easter morning. As you arrive at church, we ask that you either bring some greenery or flowers from your yard, or store-bought flowers, to adorn the cross! As the late service begins, we will move the cross out towards the road, for all that pass by to take notice of our special way to celebrate Our Risen Lord! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

**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!!

**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 John Lange, head teller, at 478-224-0151 or email at jrlange69@gmail.com.

**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.

## SERVING US TODAY

**PREACHER:** Vicar Aaron Sterling. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Gary Hadley (8 am) & Open (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sara Van Lannen (8 am) & Koda Cook (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – David Rossman, Bob Yeager, Richard Uitto & Fred Tamer. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony, Earl Bogardus & Josh Johnson. **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Richard Losert (8 am) & Cindy Schafer (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Lyle Wurdeman. Late – Caleb & D. J. Nelson.

## SERVING US NEXT WEEK

**ELDERS:** Don Netzinger (Wed 7 pm), Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) & Don Netzinger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Tucker Gossman (Wed 7 pm), Colton Wurdeman (Sat 6 pm), Abby Soisson (Sun 8 am) & Lynn Cook (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin & Kathy Robinson. **LAY READERS:** Rob Crawford (Wed 7 pm), Debi Cole (Sat 6 pm), Deb Fingles (Sun 8 am) and Ruthie Radcliff (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Caroline Martin (Sun 8 am), and Dwight & Marlene Miller (Sun 10:45 am).

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Philippians 2:5-11

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

**Wednesday – 76   Saturday - 57   Early – 86   Late - 150   Total –293**

## THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	6:30 pm	Teens About God Night
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	Rebecca's Garden of Hope Tutoring
	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Worship
	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	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	Student Leadership Development Team Meeting