

As We Gather

Welcome to this special Palm Sunday service based on the parable of the lost sheep. In this parable, a shepherd leaves his 99 sheep to find the one who is lost. We who are lost in sin are found by our loving Shepherd, who heads into Jerusalem amid praise and palm branches. The service includes a blessing of the palms, readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon and thematic hymns that help us to remember that we receive love through our Good Shepherd, Christ.

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****THE INVOCATION**

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

Amen.

PALM SUNDAY READING: Matthew 21:1-9 (*Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem*)

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

PROCESSION OF BANNERS**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hymn #442

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Tim Jacobsmeyer
Director of Music

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM: "A Donkey Walks on a City Street"

**A donkey walks on a city street, no "clip clop" sound from its shaggy feet.
Tiny hooves never touch the stone, it walks where palms and garments are thrown.**

**A donkey walks on a city street, no "clip clop" sound from its shaggy feet.
Loud "Hosannas" fill the air, the Son of David is riding there.**

**Today a joyful crowd appears, soon their praises turn to jeers.
The path ahead He fully knows, in our place He humbly goes.**

**A donkey walks on a city street, Jesus rides, the Foe to meet.
Shout "hosanna," join the throng, praise Him with a joyful song.
Sing hosanna to the Lord, sing hosanna to the Lord, sing hosanna to the Lord,
Hosanna to the Lord!**

By Tim Jacobsmeyer

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As Jesus enters Jerusalem and this Holy Week begins, our hearts are turned to the Lord in repentant confession, for it is our sin that draws Him to the cross and causes Him to give His life.

(please kneel)

Most merciful God,

Like lost sheep we have strayed from You. Because of our sinfulness and selfishness we have sought the things that give us pleasure instead of following after the things that show our faith in You and our love for others. We are lost in the wilderness of our sin by what we think, say and do, and by the things that we leave undone. Out of Your great love and mercy, find us, Your lost sheep, forgive us of our sins and grant us Your grace, mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

Like a shepherd who searches for a lost sheep, Jesus came searching for us in the midst of our sin solely because He desired to give us what we need the most: the forgiveness of all of our sins. He came from heaven to earth to accomplish this monumental task. Because we were lost in sin, Jesus' searching heart found us and now forgives us. Because of the sacrifice of the Good Shepherd, all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE:

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

**I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.**

**Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flows.**

**Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, on this day Your Son entered the Holy City, Jerusalem, to fulfill Your will by His death on the cross. Help us to follow Him through this week and all our days that we may be drawn closer to You by a faith full of the knowledge of the sacrifice and victory 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 50:4–9a *(The servant's obedience.)*

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷ But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Philippians 2:5–11 *(“He became obedient to death.”)*

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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. Luke the fifteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-7 (*The Parable of the Lost Sheep*)

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'

⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE:

"Lost and Found"

Pastor David Brighton

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Hymn #711

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:

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!**

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:

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Hymn #441

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Eileen Mittuch, in loving memory of Steve Mittuch, and by Laura & Brian Harper, in honor of Carolyn's 15th birthday.

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!

Jerry Bispings's New (Old) Phone Number. The Bispings, like so many others, have dropped their land line and are using only cell phones now. Jerry's cell number is 478-397-4669. If you already had it, there has been no change.

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.

Daytime Callers share Christ's love and concern with shut-ins and others who need to know that we at Mt. Calvary care for them. We meet this **Monday, April 10th, in the church conference room at 11:00 am.**

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!!

Mount Calvary has received a memorial donation in memory of Ryan King, Nancy Branscom's step great grandson, from Eileen Mittuch.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions: If you are not currently receiving Lutheran Witness by mail, and would like to, please let Jack know. We are allowed to add people to the address list once a year and will need to have any new names by April 20th. There will be no charge to you, as the church pays for these subscriptions.

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive Results: According to the Red Cross, 23 units were collected which can help save up to 69 people. Thanks to the 14 members of MCLC who signed up to donate. Also, thanks to Ruth and John Lange, Barbara Mabee, Leo and JoAnn Ladzinske, Dave and Lois Harter, and John Hunter for preparing and manning the fellowship hall during the blood drive. The Red Cross representative really appreciates the support of our congregation and is already looking forward to the next time!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Helen Giese, who is recovering from heart surgery and a stroke.

Steve Hetes, who is recovering from surgery and is now awake and working on communicating.

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

Keep In Your Prayers

Ralph Wenrick, Frances Trichinotis (John's mother), 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.

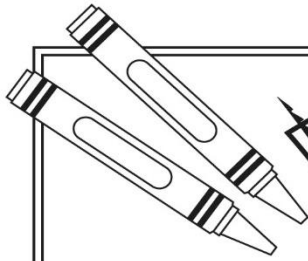
(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

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.



PUZZLE

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.
























- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and
 _____ of  5  7. For the  3 set before  6
 he  3 the  5, _____ its  7, and
 sat down at the  5 _____ of the  8 of  8  7.
 Consider  6 who  6 such _____  4
 from  4, so that you will not  6  2
 and  2 _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) & Don Netzinger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abby Soisson (8 am) & Lynn 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:** Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin & Kathy Robinson. **LAY READERS:** Deb Fingles (8 am) & Ruthie Radcliff (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Lyle Wurdeman. Late – Caleb & D. J. Nelson.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Don Netzinger (Thur 7 pm), Mark Burnette (Fri 8 pm), Gary Hadley (Sun 7 am), Brian Harper (Sun 9 am) & Mark Burnette (Sun 11 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (Thur 7 pm), Maddy Hagemann (Fri 8 pm), Sara Van Lannen (Sun 7 am), Maddy Hagemann & Abby Soisson (Sun 9 am) and Colton Wurdeman & Zoe Babcock (Sun 11 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Angleen Trasmer, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Barbara Mabee (Thur 7 pm), Bob Yeager (Fri 8 pm), John Trichinotis (Sun 7 am), Brian Harper (Sun 9 am) & Roger Moeller (Sun 11 am). **GREETERS:** Alyce Quillin & Margaret McLaughlin (7 am), Gary & Beverly Webb with Lynn & Koda Cook (9 am), and Jan Clark (11 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 10:34-43 and Colossians 3:1-4

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Wednesday – 76 Saturday - 45 Early – 95 Late - 127 Total –267
Karenni Worship - 80

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	2 – 4 pm	Community Survey
	6:30 pm	Student Leadership Development Team Meeting
Monday	10:00 am	Ladies Guild
	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
	4 – 7 pm	Rebecca's Garden of Hope Tutoring
Thursday	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday	8:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
Saturday	10:00 am	Easter Breakfast Set-Up
	2 – 4 pm	Easter Egg Hunt and Walk With Jesus
	3:00 pm	Karenni Bible Study (Annex)
Next Sunday	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	7:30 – 9 am	Easter Breakfast
	9 & 11 am	Festival Services
	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)