

As We Gather

It would be a strange thing for God to send His Son to prepare the way of salvation for the world and then not give us a way to receive that salvation. "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). How does Jesus "bring us to God"? Peter says, "Baptism . . . now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21). Here is the most important way Jesus sends the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who works repentance and faith in the heart. Saving faith is not a product of our own effort, decision, or desire. It is always the gift of God, continually renewed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit working through God's Word and Sacraments. As our Easter celebration continues, we are drawn closer to our Lord, who remains close to us, as He said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

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:

"The Day of Resurrection"

Hymn #478

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

Jesus said, "I will be with you always." Let us take Him at His word and come into His presence, sharing our great need for Him as we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

(please kneel)

Almighty God,

I confess all my sins with which I have offended You, especially the sin of trying to go it alone without You. On my own, I am weak, and sin so easily makes me forget Your Word and Your will for my life. I have sinned in many ways by evil thoughts, words, and deeds. Because of Your merciful death on the cross and in the power of Your resurrection from the dead, let me hear from You the words of Your grace and forgiveness and new life. Amen.

In keeping with His promise, the Lord sends another helper to deliver His own words of forgiveness. So now, 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: *"The Lord, My God, Be Praised"*

**The Lord, My God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven.
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given.
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God the ever living,
To whom the heav'nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Come to us, Spirit of Christ, and teach us the way, the truth, and the life. Help us to keep Your holy commandments and to love You with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST READING: Acts 17:16–31 *(Paul in Athens)*

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for "In him we live and move and have our being"; "For we are indeed his offspring." ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

"Christ is Arisen"

Men's Chorus

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 3:13–22 (*Suffering for righteousness' sake*)

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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 fourteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:15–21 (*Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.*)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Tim Jacobsmeyer, Director of Music

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens" **Hymn #589**

THE MESSAGE: "You Are Not Alone" Vicar Aaron Sterling

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 ++

Jesus' resurrection means forgiveness, new life, and salvation for you and me and all believers! Rejoice that He is risen!

The angel to the women at the tomb'

"He is not here, for He has risen, as He said."

(Matthew 28:6)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"We Praise You, O God"

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us,
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

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, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Praising You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we give You thanks that You send us the Helper, Your Holy Spirit, that we are not left alone, but always strengthened in faith through Your Word and Sacraments. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C 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>"Jesus Comes Today With Healing"</i>	Hymn #620
<i>"The Lamb"</i>	Hymn #547
<i>"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"</i>	Hymn #621

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

With thankful hearts, we give You praise, gracious Father, for renewing and strengthening our baptismal faith by Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ and of His resurrection, with the very body and blood of Your Son, the price of our salvation. Because He lives, we will live also; through the same 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: *"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"* **Hymn #832**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Tyson Van Lannen, in honor of Sara's 13th birthday.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have all input for the June Newsletter in to the office by May 25th.

Summer Sunday School – Please volunteer to be a summer Sunday School teacher for our Pre-K to 5th grade students. Our regular teachers are on vacation for 2 months, and we need YOU! We have crafts, scrapbooking, Stories with Jesus, movies, and Pre-K. The dates are June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23, and July 30. If you could help for at least 2 Sundays, that would be great! Please contact Cynthia Nelson or leave a note in her DCM mailbox. Thank you for teaching our Kids for Christ!!

Mount Calvary has received memorial donations in memory of Susan Kesler from Bill & Joyce Clifton, Charlene McCullough, Margene Freund, John & Marlene Freund, Moncie Johnson, Bob & Carolyn Gerard, Doug & Deb Fingles, Don & Judy Parrott, Caroline Martin, Jim & Barb Morey, Jim & Ruth Aden, Jimmy & Ginger Martin, Dwight & Marlene Miller, Joan Smith, Darron & Valerie Counselman, Dave & Lois Harter, Amanda Banks, Eileen Mittuch, the MCLC Ladies Guild, John & Carol Welsch, Gary & Louise Sroufe, Erv & Kathy Robinson, Betty Cummings and John & Liz Hunter (and daughters Amanda, Emily, Renee & Molly).

Voters Meeting! Our next Voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 11th at 12:30 pm. A light lunch will be served prior to the meeting, beginning at noon. Important topics will include a report from our Reformation 500 Committee and a report from Council as we look at staffing options with Tim Jacobsmeyer's approaching retirement next year and the possible calling of an Associate Pastor. Be informed and attend the meeting to let your voice be heard as we move forward with these important items before us.

Audio-Visual Committee – President Bill Bohm is forming an audio-visual committee to study the complete system now used in the sanctuary and surrounding areas (including the nursery, Narthex, etc.) to make recommendations for any changes and upgrades. If you have some knowledge in these areas, please consider serving on this committee. Talk to Bill if you are interested.

Monday Night Evangelism Ministry – Monday, May 22, we will complete our spring training semester. I am very pleased with Neal Cowan, Megan Schafer, and Glen Thompson who have successfully completed this training semester. They each have had the opportunity to share the Gospel and did it successfully and well. I am grateful for their trainers, Bruce Bauman, Vicar Aaron, and Bob Yeager. They did an excellent job of helping their trainees to grow as witnesses. Our other Monday Night Evangelism Callers were Vivian Stilley, Debbie Hardy, Darron Counselman, and Jerry Bisping. I want to thank Denise Forehand who helped out the first part of semester but could not stay to the end. We visited sixty-four homes this spring semester and shared the Gospel with twenty-nine people. Please continue to pray for this important ministry as we continue this summer to share the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ with people our community.

Projectionists needed - If you are interested in serving occasionally as the projectionist at one of the services, please contact Brian Harper - brian@brianandlaura.com.

"Thank You" to all who gave memorials in honor of my wife of 58 years. May the youth of Mount Calvary grow in grace of Jesus Christ. - Dick Kesler

Plans for a father-son campout are in the works! We are currently planning on camping out at our sister church (Christ Lutheran in Perry) on Friday, June 16. All fathers with sons between ages 5 and 16 are welcome! If you're interested, please add your name to the sheet in the Narthex!

Prayer Group - This group meets once a month on the third Thursday of each month. Anyone interested or who has a prayer concern is welcome to come. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 15, at 7 pm in the church's cry room.

Senior Fellowship - We will not have our meetings in June and July. Our next meeting will be August 17, 2017. Enjoy the summer.

Church Softball Team! We have two games this week – Tues at 6:30 pm and Thursday at 8:30 pm. Come on out and cheer on your team! All games are played at Peavy Field.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jacque Bohm, who is scheduled to have surgery on her leg this week.

Keep In Your Prayers

Peggy Rodriguez, Miriam Crawford (Rob's mom), Marilu Cowan, Ann Nicely (Margaret McLaughlin's daughter), D. J. Nelson, Steve Hetes, Dot Bogardus, Helen Giese, Ralph Wenrick, Frances Trichinotis (John's mother), Kathy Clark (Barb Jernigan's sister), 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

Jeanne Day (Bob's mom), 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.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Vicar Aaron Sterling. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (8 am) and Zoe Babcock (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Don Parrot, Darron Counselman, Dale Hawkins & Roger Foss. Late – Sam Culpepper, Dale Channell, Champ Aldredge & Mark Burnette. **ALTAR GUILD:** Lois Harter, Melinda Hopf, Ruth Miller, Suzanne O’Daniel & Maureen Young. **LAY READERS:** Steve Soisson (8 am) and Jim Morey (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Tanner Gossman. Late – Open.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Open (Sat 6 pm), Glen Thompson (Sun 8 am) and Don Netzinger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (Sat 6 pm), Abby Soisson (Sun 8 am) and Koda Cook (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Lois Harter, Melinda Hopf, Ruth Miller, Suzanne O’Daniel & Maureen Young. **LAY READERS:** Becky McVay (Sat 6 pm), Bob Yeager (Sun 8 am), and Jeff Townsend (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Deb Fingles (8 am) and Bill & Arlene Zeuner (10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Acts 1:12-26 and 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday 6 pm – 50 Sunday 8 am – 95 Sunday 10:45 am – 145 Total – 290
Karenni Worship - 60

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	1:00 pm	Golf Tournament
	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women’s Small Group
Wednesday	8 am – 3 pm	HS to Mid GA Food Bank
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	3:00 pm	Karenni Bible Study (Annex)
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Karenni Worship Service (Annex)
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting

VANCO
Online
Giving

