

As We Gather

In our Epistle reading today the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians with a personal note that he gives thanks to God for the grace given to the Christians at Corinth through Jesus Christ. That same grace of God is given to each of us today by our Lord Jesus Christ and we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth again at Christmas! Praise God that our Savior has come! Praise God that our Savior is coming again to set up His rule over all things . . . forever!

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:*****"Savior of the Nations, Come"*****Hymn #332 st. 1-5****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**

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess our sins before God and one another.

(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.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: CELEBRATION

Christmas is drawing near. It is time for celebration! God has kept His promises. We have forgiveness, life and salvation through the coming Christ Child! It is no longer time to fear, to cry in shame, or to be burdened with guilt. Our Lord Jesus has come to seek and to save us who were lost!

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

THE HYMN:

"Hark the Glad Sound"

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor.**

(As the hymn stanzas are sung, Linda Phillips will light the candle on the Advent wreath at the 8:00 am service. Mike and Melinda Hopf will light the candle at the 10:45 am service.)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we praise You for fulfilling the words of the prophets, coming to our world, and bringing us salvation. Since You kept Your holy Word, help us always to trust it as we study the Scriptures. Strengthen, guide, and comfort us through that Word as we face a multitude of temptations and distractions that would lead us away from You and the eternal salvation You bring; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 64:1-9 *(God is the potter. We are the clay.)*

¹ Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

Sanctuary Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 (*We celebrate the grace of God given to us in Christ Jesus.*)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Mark the thirteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

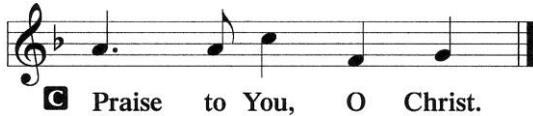
THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37 (*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."*)

²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Tim Jacobsmeyer, Director of Music

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"* Hymn #348

THE MESSAGE: "Enriched in Every Way"

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 ++
Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In this season of expectation we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior who came to us at Bethlehem.
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." (Mark 1:3)

OFFERTORY HYMN: *"Arise, O Christian People"*

Arise, O Christian People!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me a side,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to swell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore 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>"The Advent of Our King"</i>	Hymn #331
<i>"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"</i>	Hymn #334
<i>"Jesus Come Today with Healing"</i>	Hymn #620

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through 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: *"Savior of the Nations, Come"* **Hymn #332 st. 6-8**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's altar flowers are provided by Stephen & Jackie Kaestner, in honor of the birthday of their grandson Jaxon; and by Nicolas & Holly Hartley, in loving memory of Holly's mom, Ada Jordan, in honor of Brielle & Adalyn's baptism, and in honor of Adalyn's birthday.

Angel Giving Tree: The Angel Tree is up and looking for generous donors. This year we will be supporting Salvation Army Safe House, Rainbow House, Lodge Rehab/Nursing Home, WR Rehab/Nursing Facility, Family Promise and Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG). We invite your family to take an Angel or two, pray for the recipient, and serve that person with gifts. Please have the gifts wrapped in tissue in a Christmas gift bag, attaching the angel tag to the outside of the bag. **Pay attention to the return date, very important.** If you have an Angel requesting a gift card; place the card in the pretty wrapped box in Vicar Brad's office. Place all other gifts in the conference room. Thanks and God's Blessings

Greeters are needed for the following services: December 24-10:00 am, December 24-5:00 pm and December 31-8:00 am. If you would like to be a greeter for one of these services, please call Dot Bogardus 953-0681.

Progressive Dinner NEXT Sunday @ 5:00 in the MFH! Today is your last chance to purchase your tickets (\$7.50 each) for the Progressive Dinner! The dinner menu is: Baked Ham, Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Rolls and Drinks. Enjoy live music as you dine. Free babysitting will be available (please feed your child before you come, however). Appetizers and the main course will be served in the MFH, and the dessert homes this year will be at Val and Darron Counselman's, and Molly and Jeff Townsend's. Attire is semi-formal or formal . . . your choice! Everyone is asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert. It will be a fantastic evening!

Want to use your "servant's heart?" Some of our older members would like to attend the Progressive Dinner on Dec. 10, but they do not feel comfortable driving after dark. If you know of someone that has this concern, and are willing to transport them, please make that offer. I'm sure it would be greatly appreciated.

Primetimers - Just a reminder the last day to pay for the dinner at the Southern Landings Restaurant is Sunday December 10th. Checks must be made out to EDNA HICKS. One dinner is \$22.50 and \$45 for two. Please bring a wrapped White Elephant Gift. One per couple. Thank you! - Marie, Edna and Don

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.

The Hanging of the Greens – Join in the fun late service today, as we decorate our Christmas tree, hang wreaths and put up all the decorations that point us to the celebration of Jesus' birth! A light lunch will be served and we'll enjoy Christmas music as we do the decorating!

We need all cookie bakers to help us provide delicious snacks for the folks attending Rough Wood and Rusty Nails. If you would like to help us in this effort, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Molly Townsend at 478-335-8867 or 478-988-9991.

Red Cross Blood Drive Results: The Red Cross collected 21 pints of blood on Monday, Nov 20. Of the 22 people who registered, 13 are members of MCLC. YOU ALL DID GREAT! Thanks to all who registered to donate blood. Also, thanks to our congregational members who manned the registration table to help the Red Cross: Dale and Wilma Rockwell, Ruth and John Lange, Barbara and Bruce Bauman, and Kathy and Aaron Camejo. Please put our next scheduled blood drive on your calendar— March 20, 2018!

High School TAG Night: Because of the Rough Wood and Rusty Nails run through, there will not be TAG Night this Sunday. For the sake of connecting, we will be gathering in the Annex at 5:00 for pizza before rehearsal. Hope you can make it!

Macon Mayhem Tickets! We have 30 tickets for the Macon Mayhem game on Friday, January 5th, at 7:35 (vs. Evansville). Tickets are \$12/each and are on a first paid – first seated basis. See Pete to get your Mayhem tickets TODAY! (These tickets would make a great family stocking stuffer!)

Sunday School Staff Meeting: There will be a meeting for the Sunday School ministry team next Sunday, December 10th, from Noon – 1:30. Pete will provide lunch.

Children's Ministry Christmas Party! The SLDT will be sponsoring a Christmas Party for all children in Pre-school – 5th grade on Sunday, December 17th, from Noon-2 pm in the Annex. Lunch will be provided as the children gather for some holiday fun. There will be "tree" decorating, snowball fights, sledding, and even a take-home holiday craft. We hope your child can attend! (This could be a great opportunity for mom & dad to do some shopping or just have a quiet lunch without the kids.)

Church Directory in PDF Format – If you want a current to-the-minute church directory, just call or e-mail the church office. Our secretary can take 1 minute to create a PDF that's easy to use and up-to-date, then e-mail it to you.

Mount Calvary collects aluminum cans for recycling. Profits from this go to the Social Ministry Board to help pay for holiday food baskets. Single cans may be placed in containers in the old kitchen (by the back door), in the Fellowship Hall, and in the Annex (by the soda machine). Bundles of cans may be deposited at the collection point near the dumpster in the back parking lot.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Champ Aldredge, who had a humongous kidney stone pulverized, then suffered an infection afterwards, but is doing better now and recovering at home.

Paul Brown, for healing of a bleeding ulcer.

Tracie Frey, who is recovering from back surgery.

Anita McIntyre, who is recovering following neck surgery.

Bill Gragg, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Mike Hopf, who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Keep In Your Prayers

Merlin Schumann (Joan Steese's brother), Patti Griswold), Regina Ragan, Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), Michelle Jones (Leo & Joann Ladzinske's daughter), Dick Kesler, Glen Mabee, Heather Mabee, Don Engle, Anita McIntyre, Annamarie vonDebschitz, Jeanene Crawford, Crawford Hicks, JoAnn Leininger, Mike Longbine, Paul Brown, Nancy Vormelker (Kathy Eubank's sister), Jeannie Hawkins, 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 mother), Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), 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 Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Christopher Dierking, Chris Mittuch, Darrin Landis, 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/Vicar Brad Wellik. **ELDERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Mark Burnette (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (8 am) and Zoe Babcock (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager, Richard Uitto & Fred Tamer. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony, Earl Bogardus & Joshua Johnson. **ALTAR GUILD:** Tian Foss, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin & Kathy Robinson. **LAY READERS:** Steve Soisson (8 am) and John Hunter (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) & Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Open (Sat 6 pm), Open (Sun 8 am) and Open (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (Sun 8 am) and Seth Nelson (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Tian Foss, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin & Kathy Robinson. **LAY READERS:** John Harmon (Sat 6 pm), Bob Yeager (Sun 8 am) and Cindy Schafer (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Eileen Mittuch (8 am) and Dwight & Marlene Miller (10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-14

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Thanksgiving Eve Service - 80

Saturday 6 pm – 44 Sunday 8 am – 73 Sunday 10:45 am – 150 Total – 267

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	12:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens
	6:00 pm	RWRN Run Through
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women’s Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
Friday	7:00 pm	Rough Wood & Rusty Nails
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal

