

As We Gather

Near the close of Deuteronomy, there is an account of how Moses gave directions to Joshua entrusting to him the leadership of the people of Israel. Moses encouraged his successor with these words: "Be strong and courageous. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." As we conclude this calendar year and look toward the future and a new year, we can be confident that wherever we are going, not only is the Lord going before us, but He is also for us as we go.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"The Lord, My God Be Praised"

Hymn #794

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.

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.

THE KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name 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: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *(There is a time for everything under the sun.)*

- ¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- ² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:31b-39 *(Nothing can separate us from God's love.)*

³¹ If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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. Luke the twelfth chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:35–40 (*Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.*)

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Vicar Brad Wellik

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn #733

THE MESSAGE:

Pastor Brighton

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

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MITE-Y NOISY CAN COLLECTION

(The "noisy" offering of coins is received on months when there is a fifth Sunday. This offering makes a lot of "noise" in the mission work of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League that it helps to support!)

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

**Though we don't know what the new year holds for us,
we know who holds us in the new year!**

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

OFFERTORY:

"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 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 us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

Hymn #390

MIZPAH PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's altar flowers are provided by Eileen Mittuch in memory of Gene Mittuch's birthday.

We received a Christmas Letter from Seminarian Josh LeBorious and it is posted on the office hallway bulletin board.

Christmas Greetings from Former Vicars – We have received a few cards and letters from some of our former Vicars. They are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Projectionists Needed - Can you operate a computer? Can you locate and press the "down" arrow? Then you have the skills to serve as a projectionist during worship! We desperately need people to serve in this role, particularly at the 10:45 service. Call or text Brian Harper at 478-284-6031 if you're interested.

Thank-You! Sonja, the boys and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Mount Calvary for your amazing support of our ministry and life among you. While your generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated, we are continually humbled by the many ways you support our family. I continue to be amazed at the heart for ministry members of Mount Calvary live out on a daily basis. Thank you again for everything! Pete, Sonja, and the boys!

Another Thank You! I've told many (but not all) of you in the past why I continue to work here at my advanced age ☺. It's because Mount Calvary's congregation is friendly, loving, and generous. I brag on you often when speaking to people who aren't members. The generosity is quiet and often anonymous. You're a great bunch and I'm proud to work here. - Jack Knight

And Yet Another Thank You! Thank you for your generous Christmas gift, as well as your love and support all year long. - Becky McVay.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up. If you haven't already got yours, please pick them up from the table near the Information Desk. If you would like envelopes and don't have them, please let Jack (in the office) know and he'll get them for you. You don't have to be an official member of Mt. Calvary to get envelopes.

Attention All Men: The first installment of the Men's Breakfast for 2018 will be held on Saturday, January 20 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. So, put your name on the Sign-Up Sheet at the Information Desk and join us for food, fellowship and a devotion. It's a Guy Thing!

Sunday School Offering Projects! Those dollars add up over the course of the year. In 2017 the offerings collected in our Sunday School baskets helped support the following ministries: Military Bible Sticks (\$523), UGA's Campus Ministry (\$500), Hurricane Harvey Relief (\$500), Ferst Reader Program (\$500), Rebecca's Garden @ Mt. Calvary (\$500), and True Light Transportation (\$500)

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. You can text Pete at (478) 919-3723 to reserve your Mayhem tickets! (He is out of town but will be back on Wednesday to get you your tickets.)

High School TAG Night: Join us for the first TAG Night of the year next Sunday, January 7th, from 6:30-8 pm in the Annex. There will be games, snacks, and a Bible Centered discussion on dealing with temptation.

No Education Hour! There will be no classes during Education Hour this weekend (December 31st). Bible classes will resume next weekend January 7th at 9:30 am.

Wednesday Night Christian Fellowship & Education! Our midweek classes will resume January 10th with dinner at 5:30 and classes beginning at 6:00 & 6:15.



**The Flower Chart for 2018 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Boards** will meet on Tuesday, January 9th.
- **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 16th.
- **The Voters Assembly** will meet on Sunday, January 21st at 12:15 pm. A light lunch will be served at noon. This is an important meeting because we will have reports from our boards and staff, the nominating committee will give their report and elections will be held, and future staffing will be discussed – including a proposal from the Council to establish a Call Committee for an Associate Pastor. All members of Mt. Calvary who are 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote. Voters must attend at least one meeting per year to remain eligible to vote. If voting eligibility lapses, attending one Voters Meeting will reinstate the member to vote at the following Voters Meeting.
- **On January 20/21 we will observe Life Sunday.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Ann Gossman, Eric's mom, who died this past week.

Donna Burkhardt, who is recovering from surgery.

Richard Uitto, who had gall bladder surgery.

JoAnn Burge, who is hospitalized.

JoAnn Smith, who is hospitalized with pneumonia.

Dwight Miller, who is again having heart concerns.

Chet Branscom, who has been diagnosed with acute leukemia.

Dick Kesler, who is hospitalized with pneumonia.

Keep In Your Prayers

Pastor Brighton, Charles Smith (Joan's husband), Susan Wallace, Libby McCarty, Paul Brown, Tracie Frey, Anita McIntyre, Bill Gragg, Mike Hope, Merlin Schumann (Joan Steese's brother), Patti Griswold, Regina Ragan, Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), Michelle Jones (Leo & Joann Ladzinske's daughter), 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

Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), Jeanne Day (Bob's mom), Chet Branscom, Jace Cumbie (Amanda McVay's boyfriend's son), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (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:** Vicar Brad Wellik. **ELDERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) and Roger Moeller (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Tucker Gossman (Sun 8 am) and Morgan Hagemann (Sun 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:** Lois Harter, Suzanne O’Daniel, Maureen Young. **LAY READERS:** Steve Kirchoff (8 am) and Barb Mabee (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) & Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Bill Gragg (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Zoe Babcock (Sat 6 pm), Taitum Gossman (Sun 8 am) and Morgan Hagemann (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles and Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Rhoda Reilly (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Marilu Cowan (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Barbara Locke (8 am) and Dave & Lois Harter (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Romans 16:25-27

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday 6 pm – 43 Sunday 10 am – 125
Christmas Eve 5 pm – 42 7 pm – 220 10 pm - 154
Total – 584

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	No Sunday School	
Monday	Church Office Closed for New Years Day	
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	7:35 pm	Macon Mayhem Game
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	Celebration of Epiphany	
	6:30 pm	TAG Night

