

As We Gather

Christmas lights may be coming down, but the Light of the world still shines for all to see. We receive this light as we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord. Today we hear how the mysterious Wise Men from the East are led by the Lord to follow the star of wonder to the everlasting, eternal Light. Jesus shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts, and they respond with gifts of honor and praise. Jesus does the same for you today as you receive His Word and share in His body and blood. Dispelling the darkness of sin, He covers you with the light of His presence and invites you, as He did the Wise Men, to respond to Him in honor and praise.

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:

"As With Gladness, Men of Old"

Hymn #397

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Light shines brightly, but we often put a "bushel basket" over the Gospel light in our lives. Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

(please kneel)

Almighty God, thick darkness covers the whole earth, and the darkness of sin is on us, Your people.

We confess that we have walked in darkness instead of Your light. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have turned away from Your face and have broken Your commands.

You alone, O Lord, invite all nations to come to Your light. You beckon those who are broken to find wholeness in the brightness of Your rising.

Guide us again to the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may dispel the darkness of our sin and renew us in the light of Your presence. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you. He dispels the darkness by the light of His grace. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"O Morning Star"

**O Morning star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
All victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In You one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness,
May perplex us and distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the nations. Lead us, who follow Your Son by faith, to rejoice in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: Isaiah 60:1–6 *(Nations shall come to the light of the Lord.)*

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3:1–12 (*Hidden for ages, the mystery of the Gospel is now revealed in Jesus Christ.*)

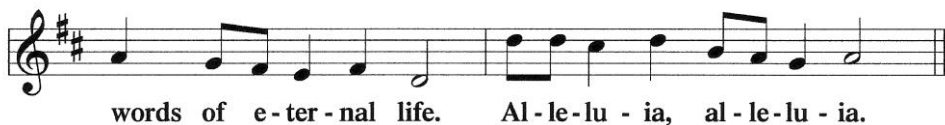
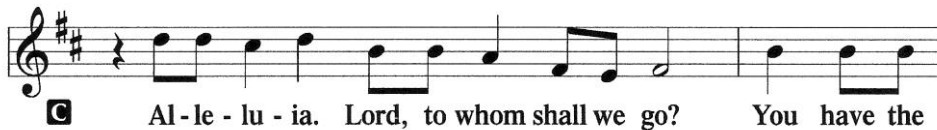
¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:



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 ++

Epiphany = "manifestation" or "revealing" and it refers to Jesus being revealed as the Savior of the nations! In our joy, we tell others this great Good News!

"We have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people."

(1 Timothy 4:10)

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have brought to earth the brightness of Your heavenly kingdom. 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:	"Lord Jesus Christ, Life Giving Bread"	Hymn #625
	"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"	Hymn #399
	"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"	Hymn #704

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks to You, dear Father in heaven, that You continue to guide people of every nation to the One who is the Light of the world. Having tasted and seen Your goodness in His body and blood, grant that we who have seen this light may reflect His glory in all we say and do; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: **"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"** **Hymn #400**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

All scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2009 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's altar flowers are provided by Gary & Lexie Hadley in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary.

The PrimeTimer's Christmas Party was a great success. We wish to thank all those who made it so. Tim Jacobsmeyer, for the wonderful Christmas music; Chuck Mollenkopf for doing the White Elephant Gift Exchange; Roger Moeller, our photographer, and those who provided the delicious baked goods (Marlene Miller, Bonnie Hood, Edna Hicks and Marie White. God's blessings to you, our church family, for a happy healthy 2018.

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.

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!

High School TAG Night: Join us for the first TAG Night of the year this 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.

WE ARE BACK! All our Education Classes (Sunday and Wednesday Nights) resume this week! Lets get the year of to a great start as we gather around God's Word!

Lutheran Night Tickets & Sub Sale Orders! You can pick up your tickets (\$5) for Lutheran Night (January 28th) and order your Subs for the Super Bowl (February 4th) beginning this Sunday following either service at the Information Center. Both of these are Fund-Raisers for our Youth Ministry here at Mount Calvary and go to help lower the cost of Retreats, Gatherings, and Mission Trips.

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, January 8th, in the church conference room at 11:00 am.**

Angel Giving Tree – Thank You! – Once again our congregation has stepped up and shown their love to these 6 nonprofit organizations: Salvation Army Safe House, Rainbow House, Warner Robins Rehabilitation/Nursing Home, Lodge Nursing Center; Family Promise and Lutheran Services of Georgia. These organizations would like to “Thank You!” for your kindness and prayers. With some funds from Thrivent Financial, 210 gifts were donated!

Youth Board Meeting: The Youth Board will be meeting next Sunday, January 14th, from Noon - 1:30 in the Youth Room.

High School Winter Service Retreat: The retreat is scheduled for January 26th (6:00 pm) – 27th (6:30 pm). We will be doing some projects here at church on Friday and helping out at the food bank on Saturday. The cost for the retreat is \$25/person to cover meals. Our Bible Study & Devotional theme is "New Year! New Life!".

Thank you! Marcia and I would like to thank our church family for your cards and well wishes and the generous gift we received at Christmas. This past Fall has been a tough one for us with the call to the congregation in St. Louis, but we believe we are right where God wants us to be and we look forward to the joy of serving alongside all of you as we seek to share the Gospel here in Middle Georgia! We couldn't have a more loving, thoughtful, caring church family than this one and for that we are truly thankful to God! *Pastor and Marcia Brighton*

New Bible Studies! We all want to make studying God's Word a priority in 2018 and here are some great Bible studies to participate in!

Saturdays at 5:00pm (Class meets in Fellowship Hall, Classroom #1)

- *Voice of the Martyrs* eye-opening DVD-based study on persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Sundays at 9:30am

- Ladies Bible Study (Ladies only – Class meets in Fellowship Hall, Classroom #2) The ladies are studying the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and topics include making sense of suffering, dealing with emotions, need to be loved.
- Men's Bible Study (Men only – Class meets in Cry Room) The men are studying Gene Getz's book, "*The Measure of a Man*," looking at God's standards for being a man, father, husband, mentor.
- Death . . . Then What? (Everyone invited – Class meets in Fellowship Hall) This class will examine the Bible's answers on topics such as heaven and hell, angels, reincarnation, stages of grief.
- The Book of Galatians (Everyone invited – Class meets in Fellowship Hall, Classroom #1) This class will follow Paul's Spirit-led advice on such things as clinging to the faith in the midst of false teaching, who we are in Christ Jesus, and what we are to do with this new life given to us!

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.**

The families of two Rebecca's Garden students are in immediate need of gently used furniture including kitchen table and chairs, and any bedroom furniture, living room furniture, small bookshelves and student desk. Anyone willing to donate any household furniture items are asked to contact Karen Harmon at 478-918-3685.

If you donated money to the Altar Guild to help with purchasing poinsettias, you may take (first come – first served) one or two home with you after any service this weekend.

- Thank you! Sue Glaser

It's time to put away Christmas decorations. All of the Christmas decorations will be put away after the 10:45 service. Please lend a hand with this task. A light lunch will be served.

- Thank you! Sue Glaser

PRAYER CONCERNS

Charles Smith, Joan's husband, who is in ICU with pneumonia and heart problems.

Chris Walker, Karen Johnson's son, who is being deployed for 6 months.

Donna Burkhardt, who is recovering from surgery.

JoAnn Burge, who still has a touch of pneumonia.

Dwight Miller, who has a bad heart valve.

Chet Branscom, who has been diagnosed with acute leukemia.

Keep In Your Prayers

Richard Uitto, JoAnn Smith, Dick Kesler, 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: Vicar Brad Wellik. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton/Vicar Brad Wellik. **ELDERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) and Bill Gragg (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (Sun 8 am) and Morgan Hagemann (Sun 10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Don Parrott, Darron Counselman, Dale Hawkins & Roger Foss. Late – Sam Culpepper, Dale Channell, Champ Aldredge & Mark Burnette. **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles and Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Marilu Cowan (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Roger Moeller. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) & Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Don Netzinger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sara Van Lannen (Sun 8 am) and Seth Nelson (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles and Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Pruet Burge (Sat 6 pm), Carol Yeager (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Jackie & Steve Kaestner Locke (8 am) and Dottie & Paul Brown (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-20 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday - 43 Early – 60 Late - 118 Total –221

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

	Today	Celebration of Epiphany
		6:30 pm TAG Night
Monday	10:00 am	Ladies Guild
	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 6 pm	RG@MC
	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Christian Fellowship & Education
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	12:00 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting

VANCO
Online
Giving

