

As We Gather

Jesus began His work for our salvation when He became man at Christmas. He began His active work shedding the first drops of redeeming blood at His circumcision. Now He takes His place alongside all mankind as He stands in the Jordan River. At His Baptism, He receives the Holy Spirit, and a voice from heaven declares, "You are My beloved Son." From His birth, our Lord lives a sinless life under the Law of God for us – and He does this all the way to His ultimate work of deliverance, shedding His blood on the cross. We take comfort that our Savior is with us, right alongside, with His Word and Spirit to enable us to live holy lives by faith and with the boldness of the cross, following Him. Our Baptism is for us the beginning of the new, eternal life that unites us with God both now and forever.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

Hymn #405

(Hymn Tune: "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear")

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

As we come into the presence of our holy God, let us make confession of our sins that we may hear His spoken word of forgiveness and life!

(please kneel)

Almighty 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.

As God's people, we are buried with Christ by baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life! May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

**All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; 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: Genesis 1:1–5 *(The Spirit of God is present as God begins His work of creation.)*

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 6:1–11 *(Through our Baptism we are dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.)*

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

C 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 first chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

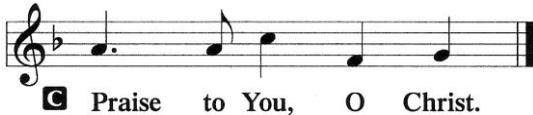
THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:4–11 *(The Spirit of God is present at Jesus' Baptism as He begins His public ministry.)*

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Pastor Brighton

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

Hymn #590

THE MESSAGE

"Baptism = A New Start!"

Pastor David Brighton

THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISM *(see insert)*

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Epiphany means "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)

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:

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

Hymn #725

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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.

On behalf of my mother, Jeanne Day, and my entire family, I would like to thank you for the countless prayers, thoughts and cards. The outpouring of love has been a tremendous inspiration to mom and to all of us. Jeanne is recovering well from her operation and we pray that she is now cancer free. In the next few months there will be follow-up tests and treatments that will hopefully confirm this. Mom treasures her friends from Mount Calvary. - Bob Day

Mount Calvary has received a donation in memory of Ann Gossman, Eric's mom, from Steve & Jan Kirchoff.

Dick Kesler wishes to thank the congregation for their prayers and support during his recover from a liver abscess this past month.

Wanted! Do you have the ability to have fun with others? Do you like to help set up tables, put a room together, or work in the kitchen? Or maybe you are a person that has lots of good creative ideas to pass on to other people? Perhaps your forte is running errands and picking up supplies? If ANY of these attributes are ones that YOU possess . . . we'd LOVE to have you on The Board of Fellowship! If you've ever had a big party at your home, you KNOW that "many hands make light work!" So . . . we're looking for MANY HANDS! If you are interested in being on a board that has lots of fun, please contact any board member (Keith, Suzanne, Val, Denise, Michelle, Ruthie or Darron). All are welcome to join us at any time of the year. But January is a great place to start!

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

Thanks to the many hands who made light work of taking down the church's Christmas decorations: Vicar Brad, Marcia & Michelle Brighton, Mark Burnette, Valerie Counselman, Rob Crawford, Deb Fingles, Denise Forehand, Matt Forehand and his daughter, Tian Foss, Dave & Lois Harter, Beth Hoff, Marjorie Hogan, Heather Johnson, Barb Mabee, Suzanne O'Daniel and her granddaughter, Dave & Ruthie Radcliff, Pat Stetzler and Angleen Trasmer.

Prayer Group - This coming Thursday, January 18th, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, our prayer group will meet in the cry room. Anyone is welcome to join us as we pray for our church, our community, and our own concerns.

Altar Flower Dedications: The flowers on the altar are there for the glory of God and to beautify the church. They represent sacrifice and therefore must be live flowers. It is a privilege to be able to glorify God, remember loved ones and honor birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Please consider signing up for altar flowers for the glory of God and to beautify the church. There is a very large number of empty slots on our flower chart and we rely on the congregation to provide most of the funds to purchase the flowers. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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

Middle School Party: January's party is this Friday, January 19th, from 6-9 pm. The cost is \$5/person to cover snacks, pop, & pizza. Join us for an evening of food, fun, and games. (As always, friends are welcome!)

High School TAG Night: Join us for TAG Night next Sunday, January 21st, from 6:30-8 pm in the Annex. There will be games, snacks, and a Bible Centered discussion on dealing with friendship.

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.

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!"

The Gideons will be giving a short updated report on their worldwide ministry efforts at the **Saturday, 1/27 and Sunday 1/28/2018 services.** Mt Calvary has four men who are members of the Gideons and we have generously supported the Gideons in the past. Please prayerfully consider supporting this international ministry with your prayers and financial support.

We will be resuming our food donations to the Christian Service Center on South David Rd on February 3rd. Any non-perishable food item is welcome but an even bigger need is for the following: Laundry detergent & fabric softeners – shampoo & conditioner – toothbrushes & toothpaste – bath soap – hand soap – dish soap/cleansers – baby wipes – feminine products – Depends for adults. They also need canned pasta meals for kids (Spaghetti-os, Ravioli, etc.) and jelly. Place items in the large plastic bins located in the Narthex and Hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. Items will be taken to the Sacred Heart Christian Service Center on a weekly basis. They are always grateful for our donations and we have received several Thank You letters for our generous monetary and food/toiletry donations. We will try to inform you weekly of items which are currently needed most.

- Maggie Monahan

Senior Fellowship - Come join us for Senior Fellowship Thursday, January 18th, 11:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a brief Bible study, a game or two, recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, a great time, and a delicious pot luck lunch. If, for some reason you cannot make a dish, bring yourself, there is always plenty of really delicious food.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have all items for the February Newsletter in to the office by January 22nd.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Charles Smith, Joan's husband, who died January 6th.

The family of Dillard Statham, Selena Reule's brother, who died on January 5th.

Chet Branscom, who has been diagnosed with acute leukemia and is under hospice care.

David Snow, son of Ray & Doris Snow, who has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Donna Burkhardt, who is recovering from surgery.

JoAnn Burge, who still has a touch of pneumonia.

Dwight Miller, who has a bad heart valve.

Keep In Your Prayers

Richard Uitto, JoAnn Smith, Susan Wallace, Libby McCarty, Paul Brown, Tracie Frey, Anita McIntyre, Bill Gragg, Mike Hopf, Patti Griswold, 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), Chet Branscom, Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Chris Walker (Karen Johnson's son), 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:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Don Netzinger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sara Van Lannen (Sun 8 am) and Seth Nelson (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:** Carol Yeager (8 am) and Roger Moeller (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Roger Moeller. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) & Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Colton Wurdeman (Sat 6 pm), Abigail Halsell (Sun 8 am) and Carlee Toler (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Marcia Brighton, Jan Clark, Valerie Counselman, Denise Forehand & Nancy Hoar. **LAY READERS:** Megan Schafer (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Adam Beecher (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Tyson & Sara Van Lannen (8 am) and Jan Clark (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday - 34 Early – 96 Late - 147 Total –277

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	12:00 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 6 pm	RG@MC
	7:00 pm	Council
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Christian Fellowship & Education
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00 am	Senior Fellowship
	7 – 8 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	12:15 pm	Voters Meeting
	6:30 pm	TAG Night

