

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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December 13, 2020   ✝   Third Sunday in Advent

*St. John's Lutheran Church is a supporting congregation Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City, 638-0228.*

**Today** the paraments are blue. We are in the season of Advent, in which we look forward to Jesus' return to fulfill what He announced in His first Advent. He will come to judge the living and the dead and usher in the new heaven and the new earth.

**The Lord's Supper** is celebrated today. If you have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and believe that with the bread and wine Christ gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins and belong to the LCMS fellowship, you are invited to join in this blessed Sacrament. (If you are desiring to commune for the first time at St. John's as a Lutheran or you are a non-Lutheran, **please see the pastor prior to the service**).

**Children's Christmas program** will be on Sunday morning, December 20 at 10:30am, outside. It will be livestreamed. Practice is today during Sunday School.

**Tree Decorating** in the parish hall will be on Saturday, December 19 at 1pm. This event is for children and adults! Come and make an ornament to take home! Someone may bring cookies and hot chocolate to enjoy . . .

**Christmas Eve candlelight** service of lessons and carols will be Thursday, December 24 at 7pm.

Last Sunday, December 6, 2020:

Attendance: 81

SS / ABC / LYF: 24 / 10 / 3

Offerings: \$2704 / \$234 / \$340 (electronic)

## **CALVARY INSIDER – Here’s What Is Going On!**

### **CALVARY INSIDER – What happened this past week at Calvary?**

- Students spent the day growing in their faith and relationships during FaithFest, Calvary’s annual in-school retreat. This year’s theme was “Ponder the Path,” taken from Proverbs 4:25-26.
- Basketball teams were back in action on our home court, as both the boys’ and girls’ teams defeated Columbia Independent
- Choir, band, and art students shared their love of fine arts and talent as we celebrated Christ’s birth at our annual Christmas Concert

**CHRISTMAS BREAK** – To celebrate the Christmas season, Calvary will be out of school from December 23-January 4. During that time, we will have limited office hours to allow our staff to spend time with their families. The office will be open 8am-12pm Wednesday, December 23, and then closed December 24 - January 3. The office will reopen with regular hours starting January 4.

**EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS** – We are thrilled that new students have already begun to apply for admission for the 2021-2022 school year! Current 9th, 10th & 11th grade students can also register for next year now. Re-register for the 2021-2022 school year with your \$100 registration fee before January 4, 2021 and receive a \$50 credit toward your student’s ‘21-’22 tuition. Get your bonus today!

**CHRISTMAS WISH LIST** – As you’re making your Christmas list, consider adding an item from the Calvary Wish List. You can find a range of items by going to [calvarylhs.org](http://calvarylhs.org) and clicking on the “Support Calvary” tab, then scroll down to the wish list tab.

# Confession and Absolution

## Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
  
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!
  
- 3 My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
  
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Public domain

### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\cdot\ddot{\text{I}}\cdot$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

LSB 151

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **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.**

## Absolution

LSB 151

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
**and grant us your sal- | vation.**

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\*  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to |**  
**folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
**that glory may dwell | in our land.**

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*  
**and our land will yield its | increase.**

Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
**and make his foot- | steps a way.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
**and grant us your sal- | vation.**

### Kyrie

LSB 152

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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 mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Amen.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
 and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
 all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
 that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
 my soul shall exult in my God,  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
 to sprout up before all the nations.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Stand

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

- C** Alleluia.  
 Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of eternal life.  
 Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

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## Sermon

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

**C** 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.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation! Keep Your saints from every folly that would turn them from Your words of peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless Matthew, our Synod president; *Lee*, our district president; *Pete*, our circuit visitor; Pastor Fields as he serves Immanuel, Honey Creek, and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Dear Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Sanctify them completely, that their whole spirit, soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give grace and strength for another year for Lindsey Stinson (12/15), James McCoy (12/16),

Carolyn Walker (12/19), and all who celebrate birthdays, and Andrew & Sara Kautsch (12/17) who celebrate their anniversary, Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give wisdom and success to our nation and its leaders. Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us and those newly elected. Preserve our land and its citizens in peace and harmony, and protect all who serve in harm's way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Receive our thanks in every circumstance for Your kindness in Christ Jesus and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Him. We pray especially for Katie Corrigan, Jen Schmitt, Leigh Fenton, Jackie Brown, Lois Belshe, Carolyn Walker, and Dennis Propst. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give us faith to believe the New Testament in Your blood, to seek Your Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and to confess Your truth with honest hearts in communion with one another at this altar today. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface (Full)

**P** 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 saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 161*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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 Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Pre-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You refresh 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.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

**P** 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hark the Glad Sound

**LSB 349**

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Public domain

## The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

*sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who will assist with distribution, then move to the door of the church and parish hall to give the Lord's body and blood to worshipers as they leave. Please start with those in the balcony and back of the church or parish hall, remaining a "safe" distance behind those in front of you.*

## **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**LSB 338**

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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## **Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

**LSB 636**

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,  
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
Come into the daylight's splendor,  
There with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded  
This amazing banquet founded;  
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,  
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,  
And with loving rev'rence greet Him.  
For with words of life immortal  
He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before Him,  
Saying, as you there adore Him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,  
That I nevermore will leave You.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure

Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
But the priceless gifts of heaven  
God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
None could buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven,  
And His blood, for you once given.

4 Now in faith I humbly ponder  
Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless  
Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ's own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation,  
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,

Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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