

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri**  
**Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112**  
**Brian Whittle, Pastor**  
**Email: [stjohnstringtown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnstringtown@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.stjohnstringtown.org](http://www.stjohnstringtown.org)**  
**Facebook: [fb.me/stjohnstringtown/](https://fb.me/stjohnstringtown/)**

December 25, 2022    ✝    Christmas Day

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

**Today** the paraments are white as we celebrate the Holy Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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. Gluten-free wafers are available; speak with Pastor or an elder prior to worship. (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**).

Last Sunday, December 18, 2022:

Attendance: 79 / 5 (livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: ? / 16 / 3

Offerings: \$2895 / \$129 / \$336 (electronic)

## Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** – The Calvary family wishes you a very blessed Christmas! As we worship the birth of our Savior, we pray it is a time to celebrate with loved ones, and we look forward to a new semester as classes resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CALVARY'S GIFT** - The volunteers are taking a well-deserved break for the holidays, so the store is closed now through Jan 10. If you are interested in supporting the students and families at Calvary by volunteering your time in the New Year, come see where you can help out. Call (573) 821-8875.

**2023-2024 REGISTRATION BONUS** – Registration is OPEN for the 2023-2024 school year! Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders and current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students can already register for next year! When you apply or re-register for next school year with your \$100 registration fee by January 3, 2023, you will receive a \$50 credit toward your student's '23-'24 tuition. **REGISTER TODAY!**

**POSITION AVAILABLE** – Calvary is seeking a mission-minded head golf coach for the 2023 Spring season. Resumes are being accepted now. Applicants must have a four-year college degree if they have not served as an assistant coach for two years. Interested individuals should contact Erich Ahlers, [principal@calvarylhs.org](mailto:principal@calvarylhs.org) or Kerri Morris, [athletics@calvarylhs.org](mailto:athletics@calvarylhs.org) or call 573-638-0228. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

**YEAR-END CHARITABLE GIVING** – Calvary is blessed to have you walk with us on this journey of Building Christian Leaders! As you consider year-end giving gifts to charities and you would like to include Calvary during this last week of 2022, gifts can be sent through the mail, dropped off at school or made online ([calvarylhs.org/support](http://calvarylhs.org/support) and click Give Now). Contact John Christman ([administrator@calvarylhs.org](mailto:administrator@calvarylhs.org)) for more information about how your gift makes an immediate impact at Calvary for students and their families.

### **SAVE THE DATE** –

Jan. 6-7 Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament  
Jan. 12-14 Calvary Archery Tournament  
Feb. 3 Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament  
Feb. 9 Discover Calvary Day for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students



# Confession and Absolution

## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*LSB 184*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 184*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

## Absolution

*LSB 185*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalms 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2*

The people who walked in | darkness\*  
 have seen a | great light;  
 those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*  
 on them has | light shined.  
 The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\*  
 the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.  
 Yes, the world is es- | tablished;\*  
 it shall nev- | er be moved.  
 Your throne is established | from of old;\*  
 you are from ever- | lasting.  
 Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*  
 holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.  
**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.**  
 The people who walked in | darkness\*  
 have seen a | great light;  
 those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*

on them has | light shined.

## Kyrie

### Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

**P** Glory be to God on high:

**C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 62:10–12*

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>Behold, the LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## *Stand*

## Alleluia

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:15–20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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 worshiped 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

### **375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending  
And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending,  
Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us,  
From sin's fetters that possessed us,

From the grief that sore distressed us,  
We, the captives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003409

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Offertory

*LSB 192*

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

## Presentation of Offering

### Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** In thanksgiving for the eternal Word made flesh and His dwelling among us, full of grace and truth; that His praise would be extended into all the world; and that many with us would come to hope in His steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who publish peace and bring good news of happiness in Christ, that they would be kept faithful to declare His reign; and for all missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see His salvation, especially for Pastor Powell and Pastor Schlie, for missionaries Ron Rall, Carol Halter, Noel Schaff, Megan Mantey, and Charles St-Onge, and for military chaplains Donald Ehrke and Patrick Poock, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For families who gather in this holy season, that they may have patience and be slow to judge and quick to forgive, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the lonely, that they may be comforted with Christ's presence and we may extend to them the welcome of our homes and the friendship of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For those in poverty or want, that they may be helped; that God would increase our generosity; and that we would present our bodies as living sacrifices, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For all who celebrate the Lord's gift of life, including Carolyn Walker (12/19), Linette Meller (12/28), Adeline Beinlich (12/31), Bert Messer (12/31), and Sheryl Schmoeger (12/31), and for Mike & Sheila Hagen (12/27) and Tim & Linette Meller (12/28) as they celebrate their anniversaries, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For our nation, that it would walk humbly before the true God; and for our soldiers who stand watch this day, that they would be kept safe and their families would be upheld while they are apart, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the sick, lonely, grieving and poor in spirit, [*especially Paula Scheperle, Lois Belshe, Addy Benlich, Cindy Eggen, Troy Schepmann, and Donn Schmoeger,*] that they may find comfort and healing in Jesus Christ, the light no darkness can overcome, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For those who commune, that they would receive the body and blood of Jesus worthily with faith in His bodily presence; and that they would depart having received grace upon grace from His fullness, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new; for You live and reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly meet, 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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 195*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

**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

*LSB 197*

**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 197*

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

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

### **624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born**

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God's own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.
- 4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
A priestly food and priestly meat;

On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
His quenching blood that life restores.

- 7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And “Holy, holy, holy” sing  
To Christ, God’s Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003409

### 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

*LSB 199*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

**C** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the  
face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
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.  
**C** Amen.

## Salutation

LSB 201

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.  
**C** Amen, amen, amen.

## 387 Joy to the World

- Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.