

And He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

TRINITY TWENTY-SIX
November 19, 2023

Calvary Lutheran Church Topeka, Kansas Today at Calvary Lutheran Church, we celebrate our Lord's Supper.

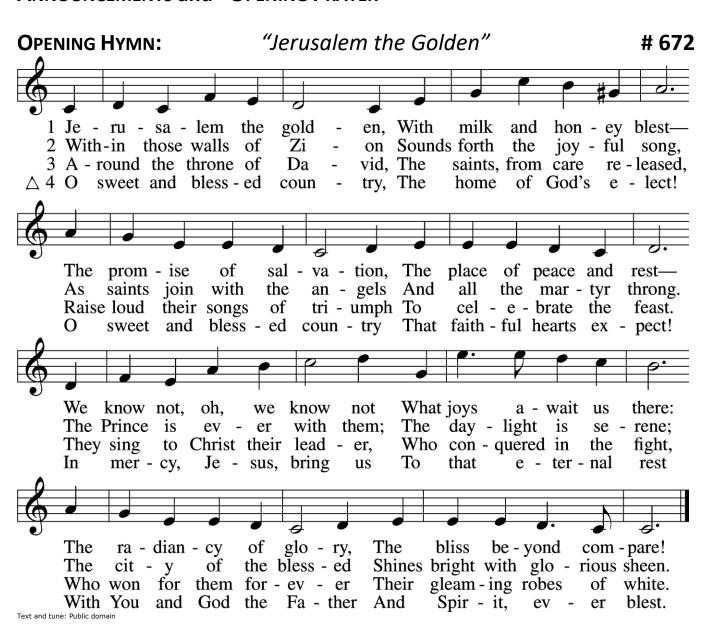
If you are a member in good standing of an LCMS congregation, we welcome you to the fellowship of our Lord's Body and Blood at this table. However, if you are a guest, whether from another LCMS congregation or elsewhere, and would like to receive the Lord's Body and Blood in this Sacrament and the forgiveness that He has won by them, we kindly ask that you speak with the pastor before the service.

Divine Service, Setting Four

Lutheran Service Book

*Indicates to Stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS and *OPENING PRAYER



*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the

■ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. Psalm 130:3-4

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this alter, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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 \maltese Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*INTROIT: *Psalm 54:1-5, 7*

P: O God, save me, by Your name,

C: and vindicate me by Your might.

P: O God, hear my prayer;

C: give ear to the words of my mouth.

P: For strangers have risen against me;

C: they do not set God before themselves.

P: Behold, God is my helper;

C: the Lord is the upholder of my life.

P: He will return the evil to my enemies;

C: in Your faithfulness put an end to them.

P: For He has delivered me from every trouble,

C: and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

***KYRIE** ≈ Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P: 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; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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

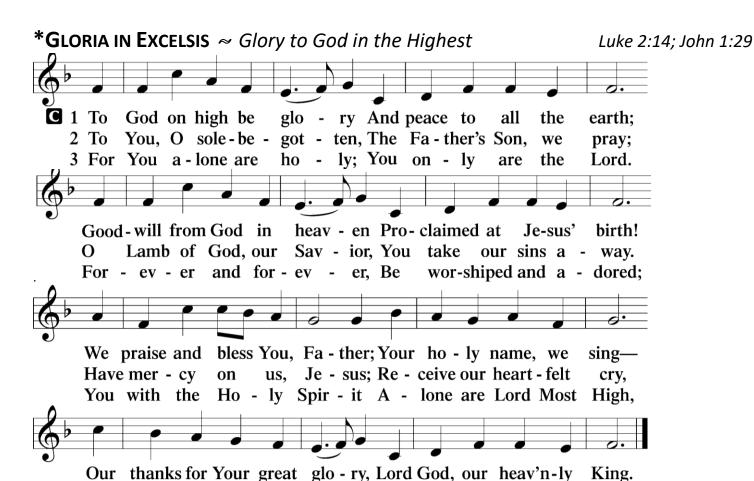


C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.



Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo-ry. "A-men!" our glad re-ply.

*SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. . . one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Daniel 7:9–14

P: As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His clothing was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their

lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL: *Psalm 50:4, 6*

P: He calls to the heavens above

C: and to the earth, that He may judge His people.

P: The heavens declare His righteousness,

C: for God himself is judge!

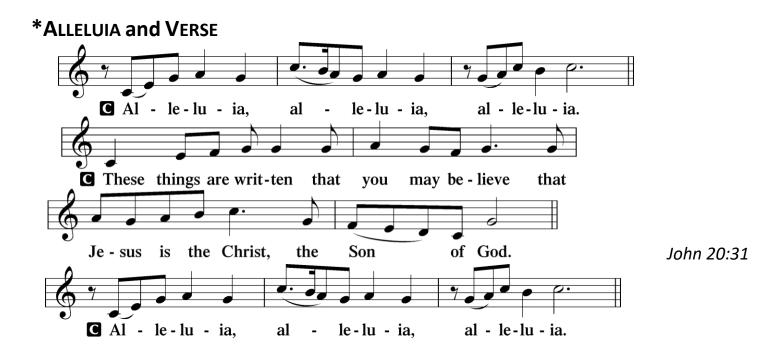
Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:3–14

Know this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with P: scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people

ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



*HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31–46

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: Jesus said: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger

and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

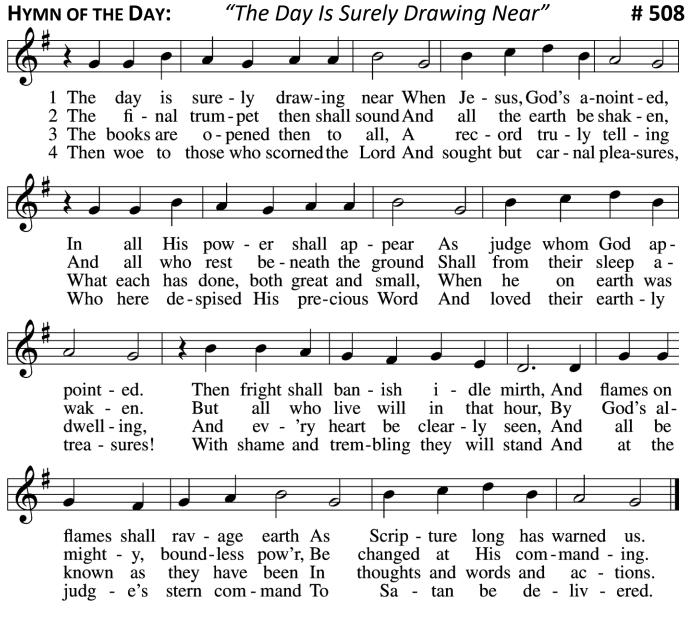
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

*Nicene Creed: (spoken by all)

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 \maltese of the world to come. Amen.



- My Savior paid the debt I owe
 And for my sin was smitten;
 Within the Book of Life I know
 My name has now been written.
 I will not doubt, for I am free,
 And Satan cannot threaten me;
 There is no condemnation!
- May Christ our intercessor be
 And through His blood and merit

 Read from His book that we are free
 With all who life inherit.

 Then we shall see Him face to face,
 With all His saints in that blest place
 Which He has purchased for us.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

"Sheep or Goat?"

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: (response to each petition shown below) [1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P: Lord in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

SERMON:



*PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

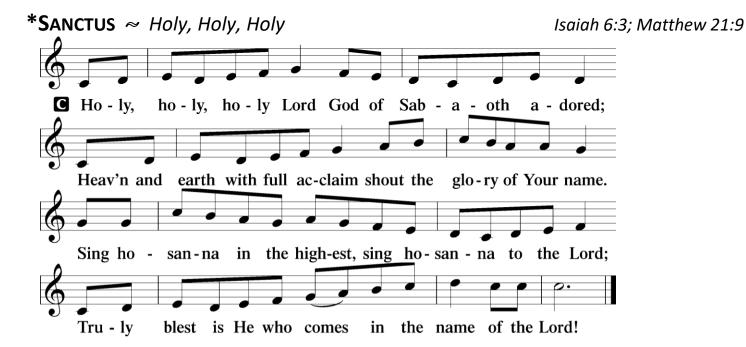
[Colossians 3:11]

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

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

[Psalm 136]

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:



*THE LORD'S PRAYER: (spoken by all)

Matthew 6:9-13

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

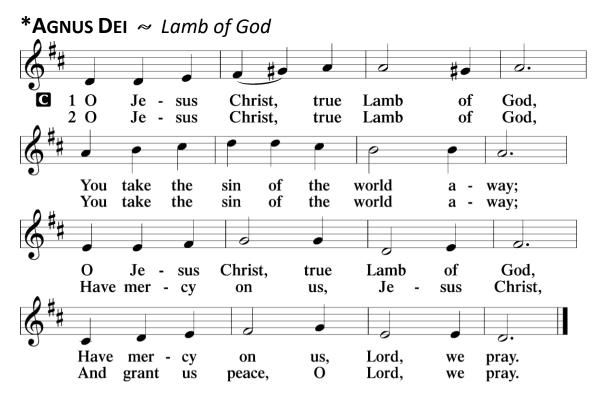
[Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11]

*Pax Domini ≈ The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

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

C: Amen.

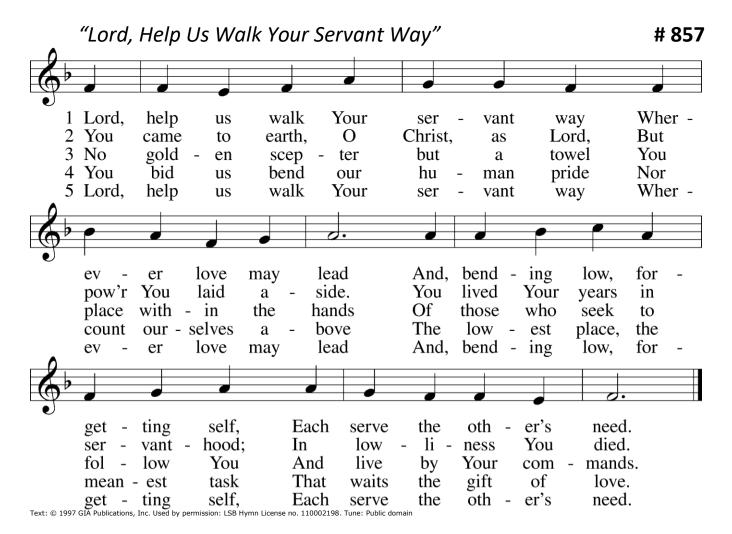


(After singing "The Agnus Dei," the congregation may be seated.)

COMMUNION HYMNS:



"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" #851 1 Lord You bought With Your of glo have us ry, 2 Grant hearts, dear Lord, give You Glad ly, us to 3 Won - drous You hon have giv To our or en 4 Lord glo With of You bought Your ry, have us life - blood Nev - er grudg - ing for as the price, the free - ly With the sun - shine of of Your own. Your hum - blest - ty Your own char - i In mys - te rious life - blood Nev - er grudg - ing as the price, for the That ri - fice; lost ones tre - men - dous sac Melt good ness our thank - less hearts of stone "You sen tence, have done it all to Me." lost That tre - men dous ri - fice. ones sac And with free 1y giv Bless that have en ings Till cold and self ish na Warmed our tures, by Can it be, O gra cious Mas ter, That You Give faith You bold Hope, to trust ly, to us less To the un - thank ful count the sand as be - lieve That You, at length more hap py for alms deign to sue, Say ing by Your souls You; oh, best of stay our on But, vil With and the Your un - spar - ing hand. own e bless -'Tis and more ed give than re - ceive. to to "Give poor and need y, as have giv'n to you"? love all With Your love Your grac es, our re - new. Text and tune: Public domain

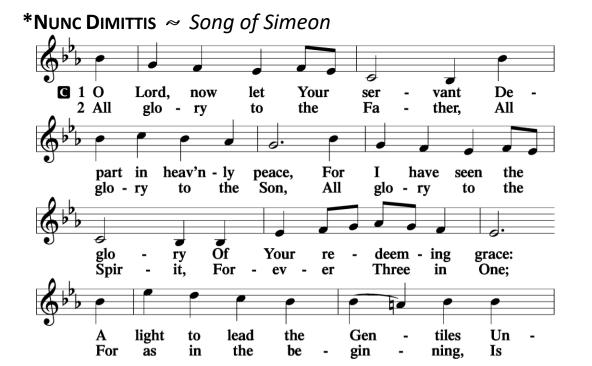


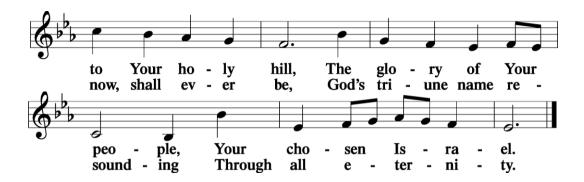
*COMMUNION DISMISSAL

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

Luke 2:29-32

C: Amen.





*Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray . . . one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

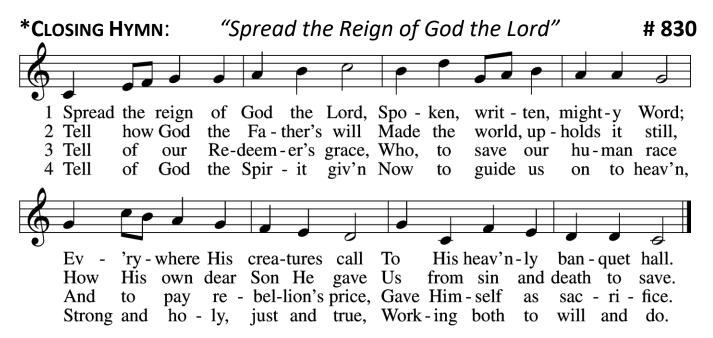
[Psalm 103:1]

C: Thanks be to God.

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 № give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C: Amen.



5 Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield. But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do! 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind; Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.

SERVANTS FOR TODAY

Preacher: Pastor Ben Ockree **Liturgist:** Deacon Jim LaCrone

Organist: Renee Patzer
Acolyte: Jace Carter
Elder: Kirk Johnson
Altar Guild: Sandi Blush

Greeters: Marcia Coufal, Gail Cox

Ushers: Phil LaCrone, Wilbur Schwant, Eric Ketchum, Jason Ketchum

Counters: Grace Pasley, Sharon Dooley

Coffee Maker: Joann LaCrone **Mug Detail:** Clausen Family

SERVANTS FOR THANKSGIVING EVE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Preacher: Pastor Ben Ockree **Organist:** Annette Jackson

Acolyte: Ockree

Elder: Michael Reb

Greeters: Roddy Schwant, Dean Brunkow

Altar Guild: Sandi Blush, Joann LaCrone

Ushers: John Guffey, Timothy Humphrey, T.J. Humphrey

SERVANTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Preacher: Pastor Ben Ockree

Organist: Annette Jackson

Acolyte: Ockree

Elder: Don Harrison

Greeters: Connor Ockree, Mike Ewing

Altar Guild: Sandi Blush

Ushers: Phil LaCrone, Wilbur Schwant, Eric Ketchum, Jason Ketchum

Counters: Heather Williams, Tamara Ockree

Coffee Maker: Joann LaCrone

Mug Detail: Tony & Rae Zimmerman

THIS WEEK IN CALVARY

Today:	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study	10:15 AM
	Being Christian Class	1:00 PM
Monday:	Bulletin Announcement Deadline	9:00 AM
	Cornerstone Choir Practice-F. Hall	11:00 AM
Tuesday:	College Bible Study-at Iliff's	6:30 PM
Wednesday:	Thanksgiving Eve Communion Worship Service	7:00 PM
	Choir Practice	8:00 PM
Thursday:	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed	
Friday:	Thanksgiving Holiday – Church Office Closed	
	Hunter's Ridge AA Meeting	7:00 PM
Next Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study	10:15 AM
	Being Christian Class	1:00 PM

HOME DEVOTIONAL READING GUIDE: NOVEMBER 19 – 25

5:00 PM

Youth Group Dinner & Bible Study

Daniel 11:20 – 12; Nehemiah 1 – 4

Psalm 119:97-152

1 John 2:278 – 3 John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND MEMBERS: A Nursery and a Cry Room are located in the upper north pod if a need arises. Children's Activity Boards are provided in a bin next to the south Sanctuary doors. Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices are available – ask one of the ushers for assistance. Please sign the red Attendance Book found in the pew so we can have a record of your attendance with us. Those needing to sit instead of stand should feel free to do so at any time. If you would like to know more about Calvary or are interested in becoming a member, please talk to the pastor or call the church office.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED this coming Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Prayer chain requests should be called or texted to Leila Schuh at 785-224-7962 during that time.

DUE TO THE SHORT WORK WEEK <u>the bulletin deadline</u> for Sunday, Nov. 26 has been moved up to <u>tomorrow</u>, <u>Monday</u>, <u>November 20</u> at 9 AM. Please submit anything to Joann that you would like included in the Nov. 26 weekly announcements by then.

THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE will be held this Wednesday, November 22 at 7 PM. We hope to see you all there!

CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL NOT BE HELD at the church this Wednesday the 22nd. Please attend the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service instead. Class will reconvene on Wednesday, November 29.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE — Practice has started and will continue every week immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary. All children preschool through grade 12 are invited and encouraged to participate! We are returning this year to an evening Children's Christmas service which will be held December 17 at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary. If all parents could please voice to Laura Ollek whether or not their children are available to participate in the service the evening of Dec. 17, as well as advise of any musical instrumental talent your child has that we may be able to incorporate, that will help with planning! We hope to grow this further in the coming years! It would be wonderful to have strong congregational support for our children and participation that evening, so we encourage the congregation to save this date! We look forward to this special time! Please direct any questions to Timothy Humphrey, Anna Reb, or Laura Ollek.

FED TO FEED: During the month of November through December 10, Calvary is collecting <u>Canned Corn and Canned Green Beans</u> to help supply the TNO families adopted for Christmas. Items should be placed in the bin under the Usher's Table in the Narthex. Thank you!

THE TNO FAMILY CHRISTMAS ADOPTION TREE IS NOW UP IN THE NARTHEX! If you would like to purchase a gift, take a tag from the tree for the gift you would like to get. Gifts must be new unless otherwise specified. TNO has set a dollar limit per family member, so <u>PLEASE PROVIDE ONLY WHAT IS WRITTEN</u>

ON THE TAG AND NOTHING ADDITIONAL. (Each child in a family needs to receive the same number of gifts and we already have it figured out by dollar amount and number of gifts per person). Wrap the gifts, tape the original tag name side up, on the package so we know who the gift is for, and return it to Calvary, placing it in the appropriate tub located in the Narthex. Gifts must be returned to Calvary by Sunday, December 10. All gifts and food will be taken to the distribution site that next week. We will also be taking a special door offering on Sunday, Dec. 10 which will be used to purchase any additional gifts/food items still needed. Any funds left over will be given to the TNO Backpack Program. If you want to participate but are unable to shop, you can donate at the door offering or give your donation directly to Joann, Office Manager, who will make the purchases. Cash is best but checks should be made payable to Joann LaCrone since she is doing the shopping.

LIFELINE PREGNANCY CENTER is in need of the following items:

-Diapers: sizes newborn, 3, 4, 5, 6 -Infant formula

-Baby Wipes -Baby Wash and Lotion

-Newborn size clothing -Toddler size shoes/boots

-Toddler size clothing, socks, underwear

-Toddler size coats, hats, gloves/mittens

You can leave these items in the round blue tub under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Thank you!

To place announcements or prayer concerns in next Sunday's bulletin contact the church office by 9 AM tomorrow. Prayer concerns printed in the bulletin do not replace prayer chain requests. To place a prayer chain request <u>during evening and weekend hours</u> please call Leila Schuh at 785-224-7962; <u>during week days</u> call the Church Office.

Prayer Petitions for the Week of November 19-25

- Pray we would be watchful and dutiful as we await Christ's return.
- Pray for our church workers: Joann LaCrone, Annette Jackson, Renee Patzer, and Sarah Guffey. Give thanks that Sarah Guffey will be serving as janitor.
- Pray for Pastor Ockree and Deacon LaCrone as they serve us.
- Pray for the CLLC: For Melissa and the teachers and staff there. Pray blessings for Melissa as she leaves and that we will find a new director soon.

- Pray for our Youth Christmas Service on December 17.
- For those grieving: Vicki Sturgeon and family at the death of her husband Jim.
- Pray for our members (one every day): Jeremy & Rachel Innes and family.
 Allan Jackson. Dave & Annette Jackson. Chad & Valerie Jackson and family.
 Eldon & Julie Jackson. Trevor Jackson. Tyler Jackson.
- Pray for the sick and those recovering from sickness or procedures: Rick Blush, Loren Johannes, Shari Piel, Cindy Rohnke, Joye Slocum.
- Pray for those with chronic ailments: Vernon Bean, Wendy Humphrey, Ralph Knehans, Kay Foster, Connor Hurd, Shiela Jones, Phil Lawrence, Arleen Marston, Bob Ockree, Juan Alvarez, Abbie Alvarez, Ashton Alvarez, Alijah Alvarez, Teddy Schuh, Pastor Hopkins.
- Pray for our shut-ins: Vernon Bean, Rosella Calderwood, Florence Deutsch, Grace Dienstbier, Karen Dreasher, DonnaRae Eissler, Dianne Hatesohl, Shiela Jones, Ralph Knehans, Dick LaCrone, Arleen Marston, Barbara Northcutt, Bob Ockree, Sam & Mary Randol, Sally Short, Joye Slocum, and Ron Stuewe.
- Pray for the work of the strategic planning committee as it takes up the task
 of providing faithful guidance for all at Calvary.
- Pray for Calvary: That we would grow in the Word and for our Sunday morning classes, youth group, the young adults' class, Being Christian, Morning Break. For women's and men's groups, OWLS, Prayers & Stitching.
- Pray for confirmation the confirmation class: Evelyn Guffey, Cecelia Humphrey, Violet Ockree, Cora Russell, Brody Boyd, Anabelle Clausen, Abriella Guenther, Sophia Humphrey, Chloe Keehn, Lilly Ketchum, Elinor Ockree, Jack Williams, Jace Carter, Laithen Paulsen, Carly Simpson, Duval Thieme.
- Pray for our missions and ministry: Topeka North Outreach, West Africa Mission, Lifeline Pregnancy Center. Our Stephen Ministers.
- Pray for generosity that we would be able to support and grow God's mission here at Calvary.
- Pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Leslie Hallgren, Arleen Marston, Kamden McMillin, Jeff Schwant, Deserae Diekhoff, Carol McKittrick.
- Pray for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week: Linda & Richard Devoe, 30 yrs; Matt & Heather Williams, 15 yrs; Tom & Carolyn Sage, 54 yrs.

Pray the Lord's Prayer and say the Creed daily, using a devotional resource.

Sunday: Pray for worship: Give thanks for the blessings of Word and Sacrament. Give thanks for our fellowship and blessings in continued unity. Pray that God bless Calvary and her people both physically and spiritually.

Monday: Pray for the whole Church: For those who suffer for their faith. For the Synod & President Harrison. For the Kansas District & President Panzer. For our circuit & Visitor Kilgo. For the saints at Immanuel & Pastor Wehling. For the saints of Peace, Greensburg, and Pastor McCloskey.

Tuesday: Pray for our society: For our government, President Biden, governor Kelly, and local leaders. For those in need, the unemployed, the poor, the hungry, and the helpless. Pray especially for those who serve in healthcare. For help in a troubled world. For an end to the war in the Ukraine and the war between Israel and Gaza. For an end to gun violence. For those afflicted by bad weather and other disasters. For an end to abortion, exploitation, and all other evils in the world. For the truth of God to guide us over the lies of Satan.

Wednesday: Pray for our life lived in the world. That we would give good witness in what we say and do. Pray that Christ's light would shine in our lives, and we would forgive as we are forgiven. That we would always speak the Truth in love.

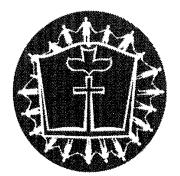
Thursday: Pray for thankfulness: That we would count our blessings and the cast aside anxiety, fear, and doubt. For a blessed Thanksgiving celebration with food, friends, and family. Pray for a loving heart for those in need and for a generous heart to help as we can, that we may be a blessing to others. For the homeless, the widowed, and orphans. For the immigrant and the stranger among us, especially those from Ukraine in our midst. For the afflict and suffering.

Friday: Pray for Calvary: Our faith, unity, love, and fellowship. That more would join our fellowship and our love would be evident to all who visit. For generosity to support and grow Gd's purpose among us.

Saturday: Pray for our vocations: For blessing and joy in our duties. For husbands & wives, parents & children. For those who live alone. For the unemployed and underemployed. For employers looking for workers. For those struggling financially and facing instability. For those who are homeless and lack other necessities of life. Pray especially for those who work in healthcare.

The Lord almighty bless

■ us and direct our days and our deeds in His peace.



Around the Word Devotions + November 19-25, 2023

"The Dormition of Believers"

1

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

SAY 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. PRAY 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;

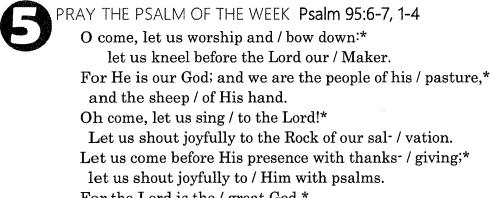
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



For the Lord is the / great God,* and the great King a-/ bove all gods.

In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;* the heights of the hills are His / also.

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Colossians 1:11-13a "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK In the Midst of Earthly Life

TLH 590, LSB 755 Martin Luther



1. In the midst of earthly life
Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife
Lest the Foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only.
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

3. In the midst of utter woe All our sins oppress us, Where shall we for refuge go, Where for grace to bless us? To Thee, Lord Jesus, only. Thy precious blood was shed to win Full atonement for our sin. Holy and righteous God! Holy and mighty God! Holy and all-merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God! Save us lest we perish In the bitter pangs of death. Have mercy, O Lord!

Around the Word Devotions + the week of November 19-25, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Dormition of Believers

Thanksgiving is a secular holiday Christians can really get behind. Why not? The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He is the Boss of everything. He has set His church to be a light among all the nations. Besides all that, secular society has no problem hijacking good Christian Holy-Days and wrangling them to abominable ends. We might as well take what is crass and profane and make it good, right and holy. Give thanks to the Lord for all His good gifts toward you. First, He supports and sustains your body. Next, he has given you His Christ.

Finally, His Holy Spirit drives that Word of God into your heart and mind in

the church. He is truly a good gift-giver to you.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:18-26: Jesus Makes Unclean Things Clean

The Pharisees were very concerned about keeping the law. One major aspect of the law is cleanliness. Bleeding women and dead girls are unclean. According to the law, anyone who touched them fell out of a right relationship with God. But Jesus touches unclean things and makes them clean. He is the Son of God with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has the power to reverse the curse of the law. For the power of sin is the law, as St. Paul would later say. In Jesus, all things are made right. The faith and trust of these women is justifying. They have placed their trust, love, and fear in the right place. Therefore, they are

right with God. Dear Lord, increase my faith in Your Son and His work to

make me clean and right. Amen.

SUN

IUE

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125: The Lord Surrounds His People

God wants what is good for His people. He sets up a hedge of protection around them. He gives them His Word and Promises. He gives concrete signs and tokens of His grace and favor for us in, with, and under the water, wine, and bread. He even constructs embassies of His Kingdom for us, His people, to rest, sing, rejoice and receive all the treasures and securities of His Will and Work. God clearly wants what is good for us, His people. O Lord, help us resist the temptation of believing You desire our evil and not our good. Help us, this day, to see and use the manifold gifts You impart and rest in the resolute protections You have provided for us in Your Church. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-14: Giving Thanks for God's Work

In this time of thanksgiving these words from St. Paul drive our eyes to the great gift of salvation which God the Father has bestowed. In the second article of the Creed, God drives the Work and Word of Jesus Christ deeper into our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. He does this by His Holy Spirit, Who drives the proclamation of Jesus Christ in the Church, by His called Ministers, such as Epaphras. God reveals, along with St. Paul, that His Will is for His Christians to grow in faith and love toward God, but also toward each other. This Spiritual growth in wisdom and understanding is the increasing sanctity of our daily lives as the Work of God in Christ overshadows everything. Father, drive Your Word into my heart and mine more. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 51:9-16: Peace Through God's Strength

Attaining peace through projecting strength is a foreign policy for many nations. Our peace is God's strength. This proclamation in Isaiah comes to a king and nation who were increasingly seeking the ways of the world, rather than the ways of God. Hezekiah was seeking treaties with pagans for security, rather than relying on God and His promises. However, we must remember, the nations will always rage and totter. Our peace is not predicated upon the nation. Our peace is predicated upon God's right arm and His strength. After all, He is the One who dries up seas and wipes away stars from their places. More than this,

He has claimed us as His people. O Lord, in the changes and chances of this world, help me to be at peace in Your strength. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21: Avarice Leads to Dissatisfaction and Destruction

Avarice is a spiritual sickness and addiction. It starts small, as with most addictions and sicknesses. But soon we are tearing down barns. Money and possessions are convenient and promising gods to grant carnal security. This is why houses are large and the storage unit market is booming. In this week of Thanksgiving let us consider where our true joys and riches are found. Joy and richness are attendant gifts flowing God's grace that has been freely given to us in Christ. O Lord, lead me away from the temptations of money and possessions. Help me to be less satisfied and secure in these, and find all my satisfaction and love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10: Christian Hope and Courage

Our lives as Christians are not aimless. We are pressing toward a goal. That goal is the resurrection. We know that this earthly tent is being destroyed. Yet, God has promised us a home not made with hands, but is eternal in the heavens. Our hope gives us courage in the midst of our pilgrimage. We groan because of the toil. But we are of good courage because resurrection is our goal. We must not get wrapped up in the confused aims of this world. They don't end well. You might get a bigger barn, but little else. Our eyes and aims, hearts and souls endure this brief affliction due to the weight of eternal glory given to us by God in

Christ Jesus our Lord. He is our ground. He is our goal. God, fix my eyes on Jesus and give me courage. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

God wants what is good for His people. One of those things is their protection. He is our rock and fortress. He delivers us from death and destruction. His deliverance is spiritual as well as physical. This is why He directs us to the 4th commandment. We must listen to our parents so that our lives are good in the land. God wants what is good for us in our daily lives. Because of this He stands with us against our temporal enemies. This is Grace upon Grace. We will not always be oppressed. We will not always be beaten down. Sometimes God grants us temporal physical successes from the hands of those who hate us. When this happens, it reminds us of our eternal and lasting deliverance. O Lord, be my rock and refuge, and grant me victory over evil. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Rev. Samuel G. Beltz. He is the Pastor of St. John Ev. Lutheran of Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is married to Cassie (pronounced Casey). They have five children; Charlotte, Lincoln, Abram, Silas, and Claire. Pastor Beltz enjoys hunting, fishing, smoking delicious meats, and teaching everyone to do the same.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & LEARNING CENTER

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 AM (All Worship Services are live-streamed on Facebook) Sunday School and Adult Bible Class: 10:15 AM 4211 NW Topeka Blvd.

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