



Mount Calvary Connected

January 27, 2022

Mount Calvary Connected is a weekly newsletter sent out at the end of each week. Our goal is to keep you connected to your church and your faith with messages from our pastors, information about upcoming activities at Mt. Calvary and more!

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LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Mt. Calvary hosts live broadcasts of the liturgy at 8:45 AM Sunday mornings. The broadcast can be heard by tuning your radio to 88.3 FM if you are near the church. We also stream these services live over the internet. Simply visit www.mt-calvarylutheran.org and click "Live Radio Broadcast" from the home page on Sunday mornings.

Weekly worship bulletins can be found at: www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/

Messages from Pastor Scott Klimke & Bishop Paula Schmitt

This would normally be Pastor Jonathan's week to write the lead article. Unfortunately, he and his family continue their battle with the virus. An end is now in sight, but we are not quite there yet. Thankfully, Terrie Crisi returned to work today after her own bout with the virus played itself out. I want to thank the many volunteers who worked to offset Terrie's absence for about two weeks now. They got a lot done and have now moved on to other tasks. Remember! If you're looking for something to do, I'll be able to find it for you.

In lieu of the article Pastor Jonathan would have normally written, I am instead forwarding you an important announcement from our bishop, Bishop Paula Schmitt. Since assuming her new role in September, Bishop Paula has been working hard to fill out her staff. At least three members of Mount Calvary have been involved with this effort and it has now reached the finish line as Bishop Paula writes below. The new staff person and I were colleagues in the State College area for seven years and have spent a good bit of personal and professional time together. Bishop Paula and the synod have done a good job!

Pastor Scott

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Beloved in Christ,

I am delighted to publicly announce to you that Pastor Kevin Shock has been called to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for the Allegheny Synod. Pastor Shock was called on Saturday, January 15 at the regular meeting of Allegheny Synod Council. He will begin his service in the Office of the Bishop on March 1, 2022.

Pastor Kevin is known well in our Synod. He has served among us in various ways including as pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Pleasant Gap; Synod Council; Worship Committee and Leadership Team. He brings many gifts to this position and I look forward to the ways the Holy Spirit will use him to bless us.

Please pray for Pastor Kevin and his wife, Lisa, in this time of transition and hold the people of St. Mark in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their pastor and discern their future.

Because each of our gifts vary, the staff is working with a coach to discern together how responsibilities of the office will be distributed. Pastor Kevin's new contact information, office hours and responsibilities will be announced at a later time.

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we underwent the search for a new partner.

With you, in Christ,
+Bishop Paula

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is ongoing! We were happy to see some new faces and hope that even more join us! We meet in the conference room/library each Sunday after worship.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee: Thursday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. (at Benscreek Lutheran)

Property Committee: Tuesday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Home Communion and Visitation Team: Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Evangelism Committee: Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

All Parish Committee: Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Social Ministry Committee: Thursday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Mt. Calvary's Annual Meeting will occur on Saturday, February 5th following the 5:30 p.m. worship service. Please plan to attend.

Annual reports for current voting members of the congregation are now available at church in the narthex. If you are a current voting member, please pick up your copy before or after worship, from 9-11 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, or by making special arrangements with the church secretary. According to the congregation's constitution, current voting members are confirmed members who have communed with the congregation and made a contribution of record to the congregation in the current or prior year.

Year-end giving statements are included in the annual report packets.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are now available in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Help Wanted

The Property Committee is looking to recruit a number of small job volunteers. Tasks might include replacing light bulbs, changing hardware on a commode, getting a lawnmower or snowblower ready for use, etc. The Committee believes we have a lot of talent in the congregation and wants to make greater use of it. Every small job handled by a member equals one less call that needs to be made to a vendor who may have a minimum visit charge or an hourly rate of \$50 or more.

Interested parties should contact Mark Rychak or one of the pastors. A message could also be left with the church office at 814-266-4859. Thank you!

Scheduled Worship Help

Saturday, January 29:

Greeters/Ushers: Mark & Debbie Rychak
Communion Assistants: Cindy Buday & Missy Brodt

Sunday, January 30:

Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Cathy Prisk
Communion Assistants: Ray Leverknight

Saturday, February 5:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed!
Communion Assistants: Volunteers needed!

Sunday, February 6:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed!
Communion Assistants: Volunteers needed!

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for Greeters/Ushers and Communion Assistants. Please sign up for the dates that would suit you best. We appreciate you volunteering. If you have questions about these roles, please contact Christine Koshute at [814-421-4921](tel:814-421-4921) or Chris Oleksa at [814-244-9851](tel:814-244-9851).



Youth News

Sunday School is ongoing for Pre-K through 8th grade: "Mount Calvary Kid's Crew" is our program for Pre-K and up that gathers at 8:30am in Sander Hall with Pastor Jonathan. Students focus on a bible story and have an activity or craft before rejoining their parents during the worship service.

Childcare is now available during Sunday morning worship: Hannah Salamon is a Richland Learning Center staff member who will be joining us each Sunday along with Pastor Jonathan and other volunteers to provide childcare for infants through age 5. For the time being, drop-off for this service will take place in Sander Hall. Speak with Pastor Jonathan for more information.

Snow Camp 2022: Snow camp is BACK at Sequanota! Plans are in the works for the annual "snow camp" to return to Camp Sequanota on February 25th & 26th. This is an overnight event for youth in 6th through 12th grade. Registration opens January 15th, and we'd love to have a group. Contact Pastor Jonathan for details!

Junior/Senior High Lock-In: We're beginning to plan an overnight "lock-in" sleepover event for junior and senior high youth in February of 2022. If you have students in this age group, watch for information from Pastor Jonathan as we try to identify the best possible weekend for this event!

Pastor Jonathan LOVES to get out and see our Mount Calvary youth in action doing the things they enjoy! Be sure to share your schedules for sports, concerts, recitals, etc. You never know where he might show up!

Pastor Jonathan's office hours at Mount Calvary are Mondays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm. He is available outside of those hours via email (RevJonoAdams@gmail.com), cellphone (412-817-6704), or Facebook.

Giving Tree

A total of \$601 was collected from the Giving Tree for September-November and was donated to Nardecchia Spay and Neuter. Donations will now be given to The Helping Hands Mission in Portage through February. Thank you for your continued support!

Committee News

The Nominating Committee appointed by council in August has completed its nominating ballot for council. The committee's nominees are Kevin Oleksa (1st three-year term), Mark Rychak, (2nd three-year term), Judi Stinebiser (1st three-year term after completing remainder of somebody else's term), and Jack Weisbrodt, (1st three-year term after completing remainder of somebody else's term).

Below is some biographical info for each nominee:

Kevin Oleksa – Serving in various position, I have been with OTS, Inc, a computer and network company. for over 30 years. I have been owner of OTS since 2003. I am originally from the East

Conemaugh section of Johnstown but have lived now with my wife Chris in Richland since 2006. Both Chris and I have attended Mt. Calvary for approximately 4 years with 2+ years of that being full time members. I bring to the table not only 15+ years business ownership experience but also service on several Boards of Directors for nonprofit organizations in the area like the Greater Johnstown YMCA and Allegheny Unlimited Care Providers (AUCP) for over 20 years. My knowledge of organizational strategy from a board level would be a help to Mt. Calvary.

Mark Rychak – I have been asked, and am happy to serve a second term on council. Deb and I were married by Pastor Brandau in what is now Sander Hall 38 years ago and have been members ever since. As the Holy Spirit grew in us, so did our commitment to our church through our time and talents. We have been blessed throughout the years in many ways. I have worked in the construction field for most of my adult life and I enjoy the many challenges that maintaining a building like Mt. Calvary can pose. I am honored that my company was chosen to build our new sanctuary in 1992. All businesses and organizations have been “through the ringer” in the last couple of years with the pandemic and I have enjoyed working with the entire council to work through these difficult times.

Judy Stinebiser – Hi my name is Judy Stinebiser. I have been a member of Mt. Calvary Church for 50 years. I have served on council for one year, without missing any meetings. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on council, and a great experience. The members of council have accomplished a lot this past year to improve the church, and make it a safer place to worship God. I would be glad and happy to be able to serve on council for three years.

Jack Weisbrodt – I’m proud to say I’m a lifelong member of Mt Calvary, dating back to the 50’s with Pastor Sander. My parents, who have been deceased for over 30 years, were also members and they too were very active, serving on different committees. My father had also served on council and was a member of the choir, and often performed solos. Unfortunately, he didn’t pass down the singing gene! This is my second time on council. I served under Pastor Reed too. It was an exciting time, as I participated in the groundbreaking for the new sanctuary. And it’s an exciting time now with Pastor Scott. He has worked tirelessly to make our church “better”. It’s great to see all the new members and even greater to see them get involved and serve in different ways. We’ve got a good thing going, and I’m proud to be part of it!

ELCA Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts is a great opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.

How it works:

- Choose a gift (food, medical care costs, school supplies, etc.)
- Receive a card to share the news of your gift
- Make a difference in someone's life!

Visit goodgifts.elca.org for more information on how to donate!

Updates from Our Members & Community

Thank you so much for the wonderful meal and for your thoughtfulness at such a time. It is so greatly appreciated. Thank you.

In Christ's love,
The Swartzes and Maykets

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: January 30 – February 5, 2022

Jan. 30 - Nathan Barkley, Albert Johnson, & Jamie Wion

Jan. 31 - Brenda Christy, Lori Hiltz, Janelle Mowery, & Hadley Pozun

Feb. 1 - Emily Andrascik, Dennis Apple, Mark McQuaide, & Mindy Stohon

Feb. 2 - Gertrude Allison, Eric Eschrich, Gary Gusmenotti, Sidney Nash, Kathleen Rohrabaugh, Kevin Ross, & Mary Winfield

Feb. 3 - Catherine Costlow & Brooke Witsberger

Feb. 4 - Camryn Beglin & Kyle Vivis

Feb. 5 - Louis Horn & Nathan Smith

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Jennifer & Ryan, Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chiz Palm Family, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, Gladys Haupt, Maria, Bill & Linda, Jose & Family, Dave, Tom, Lt. Hunter Bergman, and Lt. Dylan Merchant, Harold, Rick, Midge, Shirley, Jennifer, Debbie, Jill McEntee, David, Lauren, Billy, Barb, Sara Solarczyk, Jackie Janak, Jack, Corinne, Joan, Dan, Natalie Zerby, Pastor Scott Custead, Luella Koontz, Al Lindner and Family, Bob, Dawn, Stacy & Josh, Florence Barker, Bob Trotter, Jean Pellon, Bill Layton, Deb Zilch, Bennett, Cassy Sojak, Paul Miller, Keith Mayket, Ruth, Pete, Annabelle, the Teplitza Family, Ethel Warshel, Melanie, Ken, John Nerone, Dane Wisner, Jeff, Don, Bill, Linda, Landon, Dorothy, Irene, Karen, Susan Dyers, Bob McMullen, Dwayne Dietrich, Wyatt George, Larry Hockensmith, Jean Pellon, Mike, Corey, John Rychak, Pastor Jonathan & Family, Roxanee Horner, Lynn Palm and son, Alex, and Alex's wife, and Becky Lilja.

Condensed Worship for Sunday, January 23, 2022

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 19

P: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

A: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

P: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

A: their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

P: It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

A: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

P: The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

A: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

P: The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

A: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

P: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

A: Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

P: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

A: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31aBut strive for the greater gifts.

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon by Pastor Scott Klimke

If you were able to be here, you might recall last week's sending song was called "Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue." Most of the hymn's words paraphrase what we read in 1st Corinthians chapter 13. With its in-depth exploration of love, this chapter is often a part of wedding ceremonies; explaining one of the reasons it was in play last week. With so much talk of marriage and of weddings on the part of last week's appointed scriptures, it seemed the perfect time to pull out a hymn which is easy to connect to the weddings we continue to attend and to witness today. But there was also another reason why the hymn I've referenced sent us on our way last weekend. With its emphasis upon love, last week's sending song looked forward to our task for the week ahead, as it also looked forward to the topic to be raised by today's service.

This past week, as with every other week, our task was love or what Lutherans more precisely call faith active in love. This is always our task; love, love, love; or if you like it in theologically precise terms, faith active in love, faith active in love, faith active in love. And let's be clear right from the beginning. Our love isn't to be just any old love. It's to be the love that mirrors and extends Christ's love for each of us. This is to make the needs of neighbor, the needs of community, world, and cosmos as important as my own; to the point where I'm ready to make sacrifices for the greater good. This is our task. This is our mission; week in and week out.

Scripture tells us this repeatedly, with today's reading from 1st Corinthians being no exception. If you look it up, there's only one sentence that separates the summons that ends this reading, the summons to strive for the greater gifts, from the same book's much-used chapter on love. It's a sentence that finds St. Paul promising he's about to show us a more excellent way; the more excellent way that is to infuse all the greater gifts for which we are to strive. And love is this more excellent way; the sort of love that is patient and kind; that believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things; that never ends and never insists on its own way. All of which is to say, week in and week out our mission and our task is always Christ-like love, Christ-like love, Christ-like love.

Now depending upon how it's described, this can scare the living daylights out of us. When one reads or hears love described in 1st Corinthians, it's not hard to hear it as a requirement. In this chapter, let's not forget, we get, "I can be smarter than smart and filled with faith, but if I have not love, I'm a nothing and a nobody." Ouch! This sure sounds like if I want to be somebody, somebody who resides in the Kingdom of God, for instance, I've got love as God would have me love. And again, this is to love as the crucified Christ first loved me. Do you understand now why the people in our reading from Nehemiah weep when they hear God's law of Christ-like love read and explained? One interpretation would be they know difficult it's going to be nearly impossible to love as God would have them love and so they conclude their only option is to beg for mercy with tears included. Do you now have a better sense of why Jesus once said the gate to life is narrow and hard and that few would find it? If you don't, just one reference to what is becoming a norm of contemporary American life should help to clarify the deep do-do in which we reside if Christ-like love is in fact a requirement on our part.

These days, there's a growing tendency to say, think, and feel that I know better and that I know more. For instance, I, I know better and more than the teacher who critiques and challenges my work or who tells me things about my child I don't want to hear. I, I know better and more than the doctors, the scientists, the professors, and the regulatory bodies. I, I know better and more than presidents, senators, congresspeople, judges, and even generals and admirals. I, I know better and more than the

historians, the journalists, the writers, the researchers, the songwriters, and the artists who threaten my comfort zone. I, I know better and more; better and more; better and more. It's all over the place these days. But is it love; love that holds up to the standard of the crucified Christ? Absolutely not!

On the night before his death, Christ challenged the wisdom of the Triune community to which he had long belonged. With God the Spirit listening, he said to God the Father, "I want out. I don't want to die on a cross for a bunch of people who probably won't appreciate it anyway. I know better and more" Through this appeal, Christ had his day in court, as we all should, but when the verdict of the community was no, Christ submitted to the community's greater wisdom and went to the cross for you and for me. And this is just one dimension of the Christ-like love which is our task and our mission week in and out. We're not to separate talk of "I" from talk of "we." We're to keep "I" and "we" together so that "I" will be led to make sacrifices for "we" and "we" also will be led to make sacrifices for "I." It's a balancing act we struggle to achieve in practice, and if we do manage to pull it off, it's never with any consistency; a real problem if I'm an unwelcome nobody and nothing in the Kingdom of God without Christ-like love. When and if such love is a requirement, my, oh my, should we shudder and shake when we hear Christ say, "The gate to life is narrow and hard and few will find it."

But thanks be to God, there is at least one who has found and forever passed through the narrow and hard gate to life. His name is Jesus. He's changed the rules of the game for us. Love, Christ-like love, is still our mission and our task week in and week out. But it's no longer a requirement; no longer the difference between heaven and hell for us; no longer the plumb line that calls out any and all who attempt to cross over into the Kingdom of God without it. With Christ having now gone to the cross for you and for me, and not just for you and for me, but for the entire world and cosmos God loves, love is now a response to love that never ends rather than a requirement for love that never ends. Our reading from Luke gets at this when it finds Jesus identifying himself as the fulfillment of a particular scripture. In actual fact, Jesus is the fulfillment of all Scripture; of all commandments and requirements; most notably the requirement of Christ-like love on our part. It's why with words Lutherans have always prized Jesus says from the cross, "It is finished forever and ever and ever." Thanks be to God! Jesus, he has done what we've never done with anything like skill or consistency. With his cross being its very essence, Jesus has fulfilled the requirement of love for us; now making Christ-like love our response to God's love rather than our claim upon God's love.

But whether it's response or requirement, Christ-like love is still our mission and our task week in and week out. In, by, and through the Holy Spirit, may we be better at it this week. Perhaps a good place to start would be to abandon, or at least strongly temper, the whole I know better and more routine. Sometimes, we do know better and more, but not nearly as often as we claim we do. With at least five thousand years of human experience already in the books and each of us only one of the 8 billion people who presently occupy the planet, it's more than a little ridiculous for us to think we've got a personal corner of what's wise and best. Rather than saying and thinking and feeling "I know better and more" so often, maybe it's time for us to just be done with that whole routine and instead replace it with "God always knows more, better, and best." And by the way, you don't have to know every last verse and chapter of Scripture to know what God knows better and best. You just have to know Christ crucified. He's not just our resurrection and our life, but also our way and our truth when it comes to determining what God always knows better and best.

Amen!

Prayers of Intercession

P: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

P: You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression (especially). God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation (especially). Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn (especially). Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

Blessing

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**