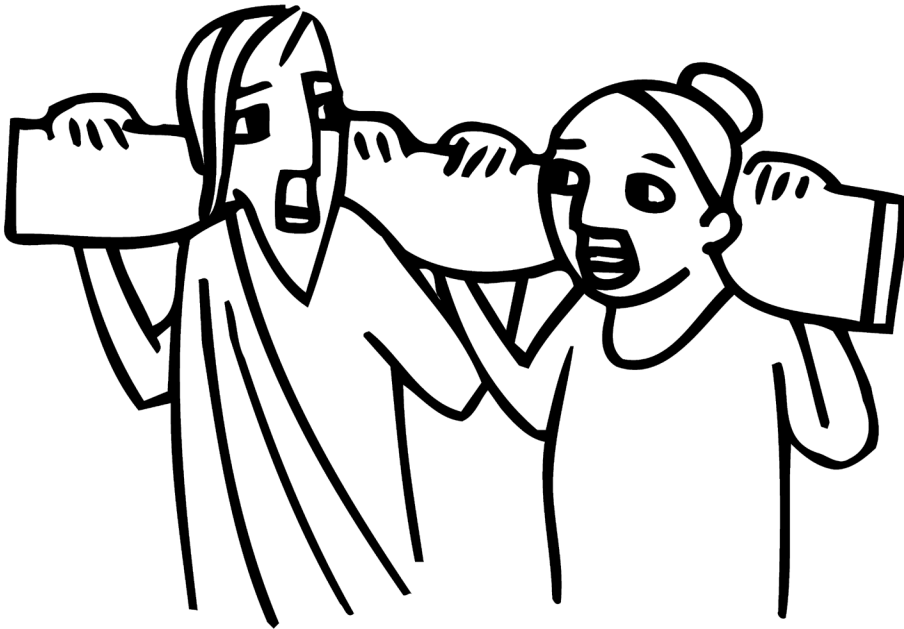




Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

1000 Scalp Avenue

Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

814-266-4859

www.mt-calvarylutheran.org Worship

leader Harold Ashcraft *July 4 & 5, 2026*

6th Week after Pentecost

A Note on Communion

We practice open communion – everyone is welcome at the table! We offer gluten-free wafers and grape juice for those with food sensitivities (please just ask for them at the rail). If you aren't comfortable receiving communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing!

Introducing the Readings

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Preservice Music

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (*We stand.*)

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors

as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

Gathering Hymn “This is My Song”

No.887

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie *pg.138*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

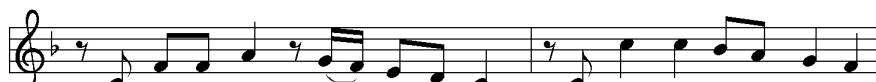


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are | good to all,
and your compassion is over | all your works. R**
¹⁰ All your works shall praise | you, O Lord,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.
¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,**
¹² that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.
¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-
| out all ages.**
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation pg. 142 (*We stand.*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Harold Ashcraft*

Hymn of the Day (*We stand.*) “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

No.888

Apostle’s Creed *p.105*

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the
dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy
Spirit, the holy catholic
church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness
of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do.

Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Ever present Spirit, still our fearful hearts as we continue in this time of transition.

Remind us that we are not alone or forgotten. Help us to see your purpose and guidance for our ministry to proclaim your love as we await our new shepherd. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest (*especially*), we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Children's Sermon (*Sunday*)

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Presentation of Gifts "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

No.182

Offering Prayer (*We stand.*)

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is
good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the

earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *pg. 144*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Our Lord's Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God *pg. 146*

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

Holy Communion

This is the Lord's Supper – Christ's invitation is all you need so come on bended knee.

Special Music “You Say” performed by Lauren Daigle

Table Blessing *(We stand.)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

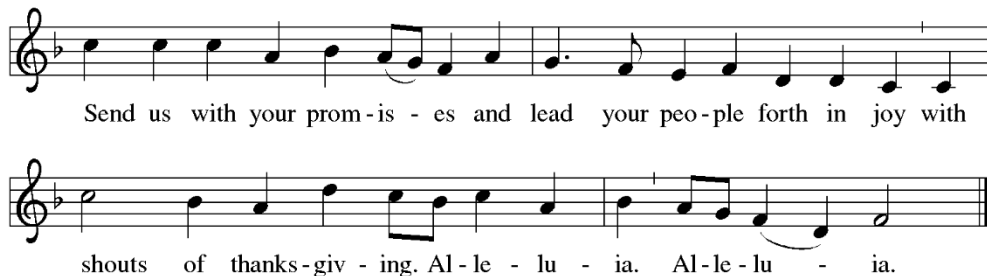
Amen



Thank-ful hearts and voice - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of
life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one
another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Sending Hymn “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

No.890

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

+++

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