

## **Mount Calvary Lutheran Church**

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Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

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[www.mt-calvarylutheran.org](http://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org)

The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor

*October 12 & 13, 2024 Lectionary 28*

## Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

Ouch! Today's Second Lesson reminds us that "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing us." In our culture: where God's judgment, God's wrath is so out of fashion – we are reminded again of our ongoing need to be "pierced."

The "word of God" cited here should not be confused with a book, or the Bible. What is meant here is the spoken and alive word in all of its force – a sharp two-edged sword that cuts and divides, like the word of God we hear from Amos and Jesus in our other readings today. And, in today's Confession and, perhaps, in the sermon.

This vivid portrait of the word of God concludes with the reminder that we are all vulnerable as we stand before the One "to whom we must render an account." For those of us who find the notion of God's judgment terrifying (which should be all of us), then we can look to the last word – the promise of the great high priest and his sacrifice. See! God's word of judgment never stands without God's gospel word.

## Gathering

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

### Preservice Music

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn** “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

**No. 669**

**Greeting**

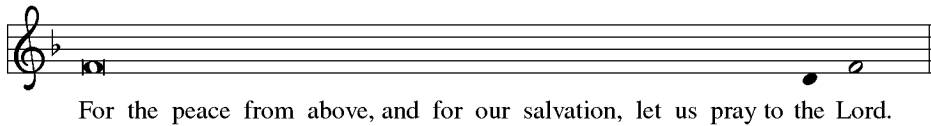
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

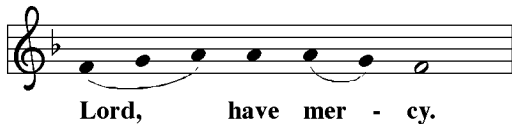
**Kyrie**



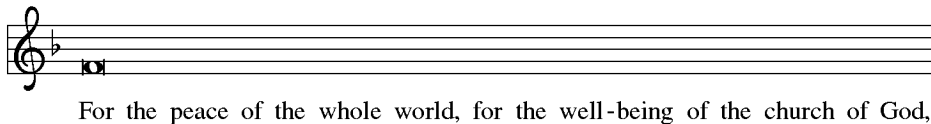
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



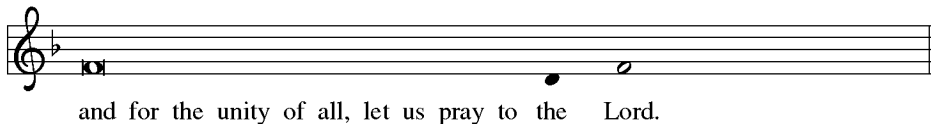
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



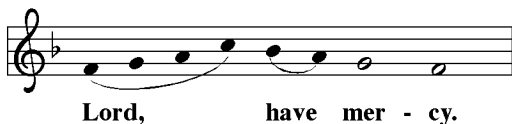
Lord, have mer - cy.



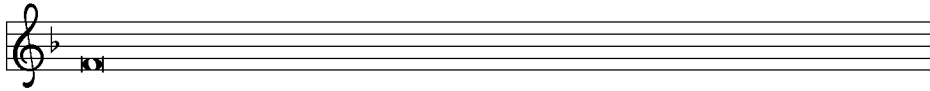
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



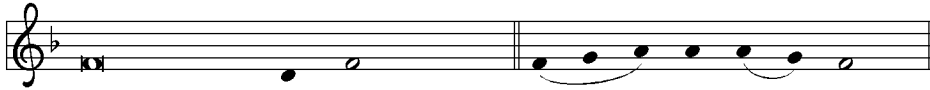
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



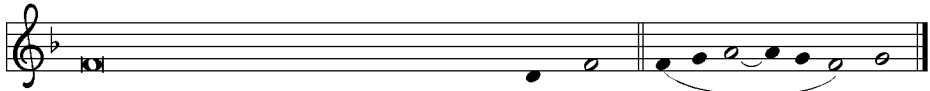
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## 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

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Word

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

### First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
 and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
 and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
 and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore,

because you trample on the poor  
 and take from them levies of grain;

you have built houses of hewn stone;  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?  
Be gracious to your servants.**

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup>**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us  
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor to their children.

<sup>17</sup>**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

The holy gospel according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments:

‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup>He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** “The Hoarding Orientation”

**Hymn of the Day** “Take My Life, That I May Be”

**No. 685**

**Apostles’ Creed**

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**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

Compassionate God, encourage your church as we respond to the vast human suffering in the wake of Hurricane Helene, and help us to mend what has been broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Guide and direct our country's leaders as they look to be a wise supporter of Israel in its current crisis with Iran, even as we hope for a peace settlement in Gaza. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we pray for our beloved congregation in these in-between times. Help and guide us as we encourage those we've been missing to return and find their place once again in this church family. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who are afflicted, tormented, grieving, oppressed, and lonely especially those we name aloud or silently. Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, first and last, who still inspire us to faithful living. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Children's Message (Sunday)**

#### **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### **Offering Song** "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"

**No. 691**



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

### **Offering Prayer**

Holy God, gracious and merciful,  
you bring forth food from the earth  
and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,  
that all may know your care;  
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various phrasing slurs.

### Preface

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various phrasing slurs.

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,  
 you alone are holy,  
 you alone are God.  
 The universe declares your praise:  
 beyond the stars;  
 beneath the sea;  
 within each cell;  
 with every breath.

### **We praise you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
 at the heart of human life;  
 near to those who suffer;  
 beside the sinner;  
 among the poor;  
 with us now.

### **We thank you, O God.**

*Our Lord's Words of Institution*

Remembering his love for us  
 on the way,  
 at the table,  
 and to the end,  
 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.

**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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Special Music “In Jesus Name” by Katy Nichole

### Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, almighty God, for having 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’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn “O God of Every Nation”

**No. 713**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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Readers/Communion Assistants

**Oct 12** Pastor James West

**Oct 13** Carter & Laura Bower

**Oct 19** Cindy Solarczyk

**Oct 20** Carter & Laura Bower

**Oct 26** Kevin Oleksa

**Oct 27** Ray Leverknight

Ushers

**Oct 12** \*\*HELP WANTED\*\*

**Oct 13** \*\*HELP WANTED\*\*

**Oct 19** Linda Barnhart & Pat Bittner

**Oct 20** Dave & Missy Raho

**Oct 26** \*\*HELP WANTED\*\*

**Oct 27** Mayket Family

Altar Guild

**October** – Matt Hockensmith Family



Join Us For  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church's

ITALIAN

Spaghetti Dinner  
Fundraiser  
EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3  
4 - 6 P.M.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

1000 Scalp Ave., Johnstown

Tickets can be purchased after services or in the church office.  
Drop-Ins also welcomed!



**Ticket Includes:**

Spaghetti and Meatballs,  
Drinks, Rolls, Salad and  
Dessert!



ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024  
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

**DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS\*
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD  
One Winner at every Boscov's store

Backyard Ministries Hat/Glove  
Collection

Mt. Calvary is now collecting hats and gloves for the children of Coopersdale. Please take a labeled bag, fill it, and return it to the bin in the narthex. There is also a donation bin to provide a monetary donation, instead of purchasing items available in the narthex.