



HE WILL
BAPTIZE YOU
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

LUKE 3:16

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

1000 Scalp Avenue

Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

814-266-4859

www.mt-calvarylutheran.org

The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor

December 14 & 15, 2024 Advent 3

Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Gathering

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

Preservice Music

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (*Sunday*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**
Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God, we lift up our souls.
**You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of ✙ Jesus;
you belong to Christ.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" *verses 1-3* **No. 242**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (*Saturday*)

Mitchel Joseph Dye
Maverick Richard Dye

Presentation (*Saturday*)

*The Parents, Katy and Austin Dye
and the Sponsor, Emylee Brandon Gather at the Font*

The assembly is seated.

In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The Sponsor for baptism:

I present Mitchel and Maverick Dye for Holy Baptism.

Pastor addresses the Parents

Called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

Katy and Austin, as you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with several sacred responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Pastor addresses the sponsor:

Emylee, do you promise to nurture these children in the Christian faith as God's Spirit empowers you, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Mitchel and Maverick and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

Profession of Faith (*Saturday*)

The pastor addresses the parents and sponsor.

The assembly joins in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font (*Saturday*)

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit through this water and your Word + and breathe new life into this child who is here to be baptized. By your Spirit remind us that we are your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism (*Saturday*)

Mitchel Joseph, Maverick Richard, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying on of Hands (*Saturday*)

Sustain *Mitchel and Maverick* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Anointing with Oil (*Saturday*)

Mitchel Joseph, Maverick Richard, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome (*Saturday*)

*A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized
as a representative of the congregation says:*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me

will have the light of life.

The representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The baptismal party returns to their places as we sing:

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

verse 4 No. 242

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.**

**Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

Advent Greeting

In the days to come,
the holy mountain of the Lord's house
shall be raised above the hills; and all nations shall stream to it.

Come, let us go up to the house of our God.

From the One who is and who was
and who is to come, the Almighty:
grace, light, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie (Sunday)



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Candles of Advent and Christmas A Children's Presentation (*Sunday*)

The congregation sings the entrance song for the children.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart, Down in my heart,
Down in my heart, I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart, Down in my heart to
stay. And I'm so hap-py, So ver-y hap-py; I've got the love of Je-sus in my heart. And I'm so
hap-py, So ver-y hap-py, I've got the love of Je-sus in my heart.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Today is the third Sunday of Advent -
a time to prepare again for the coming of Jesus.

**We light a candle each week to remind us that
Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.**

This week, think pink! St. Paul wrote that we should:
“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”
Why? Because “The Lord is near!”

**O God of joy, we rejoice in you always,
as we see you breaking into our history
to reveal your love in the person of your Son.**

As candles are lit, we sing (tune #240)

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,
For the King of glory.**

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: “Internal Life”

Hymn of the Day “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

No. 244

Nicene Creed (*Sunday*)

We confess with one another and to our God, those things we know to be eternally true.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people,
and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, and all the baptized.
Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have
made and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord,
in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen not-for-profit organizations and
governments that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the
center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering
especially those we name in our hearts or aloud. Provide comfort and strength, and
nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Song “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

verses 3-4 **No. 241**

**Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.**

**Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.**

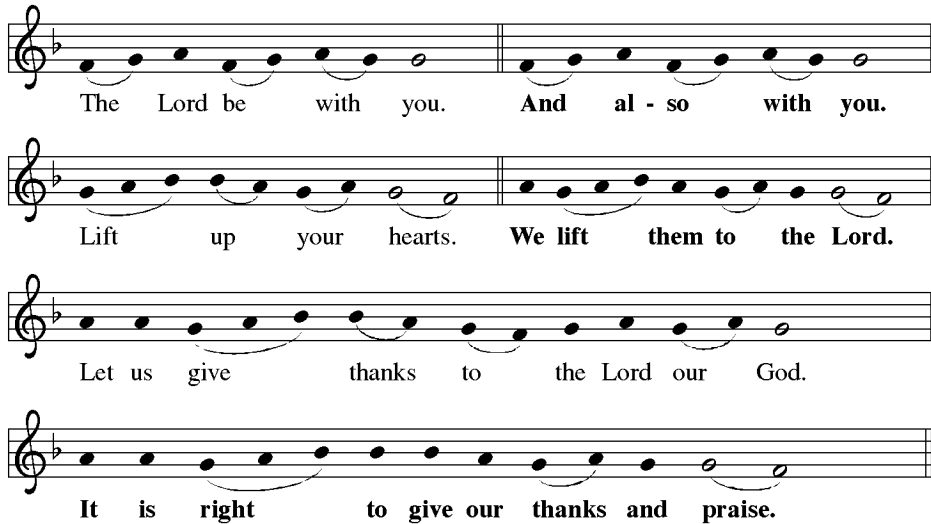
Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you,
O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God.
You comforted your people
with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes again
to judge the world in righteousness.
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:

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 -
 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 Father,
 You are the beginning and the end,
 the giver of all life:
 It is You who gave birth to creation,
 You, from whom all light has shined,
 You, who is faithful to your promises,
 You, who opened Mary to your will.
 You, from who your Son proceeds,
 your Word made flesh.

Our Lord's Words of Institution

With this bread and cup
 we remember your Word made flesh,
 dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
 May your Word now take flesh in us,
 filling us with your light
 and bringing to us the gift of peace.
 To you O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory i
 n your holy church, now and forever.

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.**

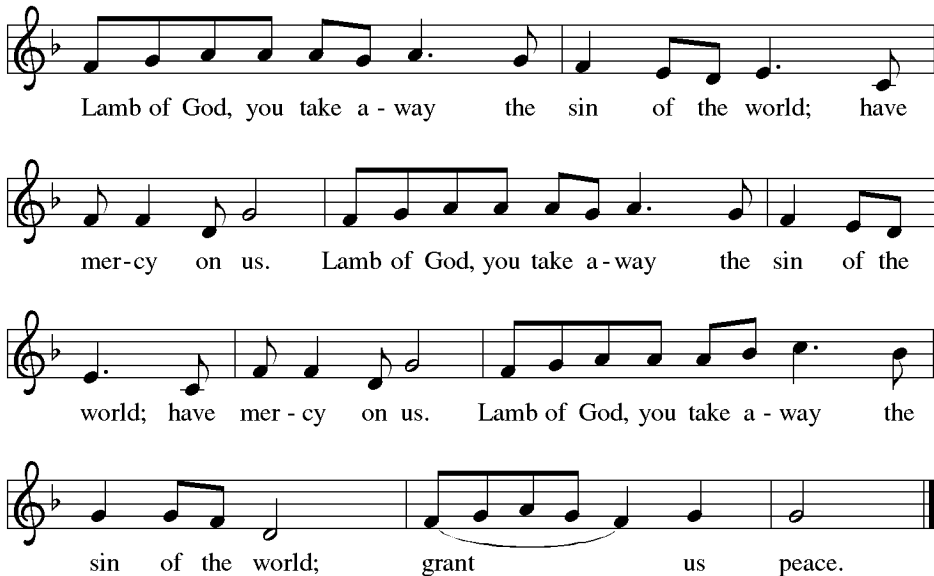
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

The food of God for the people of God.
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 “The Shepherd’s Song” Performed by TrueSong

Prayer after Communion

Most loving God,
In this meal you have given us a foretaste
of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Bless these gifts to your purpose
and teach us patience and hope
as we care for those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and 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 “All Earth Is Hopeful”

No. 266

Dismissal

Go in peace. The reign of God is near.
Thanks be to God.

+ + +

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB126679.
Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-716507. All rights reserved.

Readers/Communion Assistants

Dec 14 Pastor West
Dec 15 Shannon Reed

Dec 21**HELP WANTED**
Dec 22 Jamie McMullen

Dec 24 4:00pm Carter & Laura Bower
Dec 24 7:00pm Corlee Louder & Jack Weisbrodt

Ushers

Dec 14 Pat Bittner & Linda Barnhart
Dec 15**HELP WANTED**

Dec 21 Tim & Kerri Moyer
Dec 22 Mayket Family

Dec 24 4:00pm The Rychaks
Dec 24 7:00pm Tim & Kerri Moyer