

# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession  
 450 W. Ohio • Marquette, Michigan  
[www.calvary.clclutheran.org](http://www.calvary.clclutheran.org)



**Divine Worship. . . . . 9:30am**  
**SS . . . 10:45am/BC . . . 10:50am**  
 Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor  
 Church: (906) 226-9372  
 Parsonage: (906) 228-3566

**EASTER THREE**  
 May 5, 2019

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:**

**Psalm: 98** (Pg. 144)  
**Prayers: 15** (Pg. 103) **10** (Pg. 102).  
**Organist:** Mr. Walter Priebe  
**HYMNS: 262 389 387:1-4 330/310 387:5-8**

**PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN: 262** - "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

**THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION** (TLH Pg.15ff.)

The Invocation... The Confession of Sins... Absolution, -- "Amen."  
 The Introit... The Gloria Patri (Pg. 16)...The Kyrie (Pg. 17).  
**Gloria in Excelsis (Pg. 17-19)**  
 The Salutation (Pg. 19) The Collect (Prayer for the Day) -- "Amen."

**THE LESSON:** **ACTS 9:1-19**

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup>As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup>Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"  
<sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

**GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAVID REIM**

*Pastor David Reim asked Pastor Schaller to send greetings to the members of Calvary who remember him.*

**CLC CALL NEWS**

*The Call Committee on Graduates has extended the call of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi, Texas to Seminary Graduate, Samuel Naumann. • The Call Committee on Graduates has extended the call of Faith Lutheran School in Markesan, WI, to Teaching Graduate Mrs. June Schmid. • The Call Committee on Graduates has extended the call of Valley Bible Academy of St. John's Lutheran in Clarkston, WA, to Teaching Graduate Nathan Buck. The other congregations who requested a graduate will resume calling.*

<b>Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2019</b>	
<i>The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Calvary to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The amount given to 'Missions' on your church envelope goes to this pledge. In the event that our offerings fall short of our pledge, the difference will be taken from the Calvary General Fund. In the event that our offerings exceed our pledge, additional funds will be placed in the General Fund.</i>	
<b>Amount Pledged 2019</b>	<b>Amount Received as of 4/28/19</b>
\$7000.00	\$2390.00 (-4610.00)

<b>CLCI SEMINARY STUDENT SPONSORSHIP - \$40/MO</b>		
<b>MAY GOAL</b>	<b>RECEIVED 4/28</b>	<b>JUNE GOAL</b>
\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00

<b>The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – Calvary Offerings 4/28/19</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Loose Offerings</b>	<b>Missions (CBP)</b>	<b>CLCI Sem Student</b>	
\$305.00	\$41.19	\$135.00	\$35.00	
<b>Offerings Total: \$516.19</b>				

\* Scripture quotations (unless otherwise noted) are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson Publishers. All rights reserved.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR DEVOTIONS; MAY 6-11, 2019

**Monday - 1 Thessalonians 1:** If you're wondering what made Paul so defensive about his message, ministry, and person, it's because of slander that he was incompetent, cowardly, and a bum. So he defended himself with the facts: Paul and his comrades were competent servants, *who turned them from idols to serve the living God*. As to cowardice, Paul suffered much at Philippi and was **bold** to *speak the gospel amid much conflict*. As to their being bums, the apostles worked at secular jobs so the church didn't need to pay salaries.

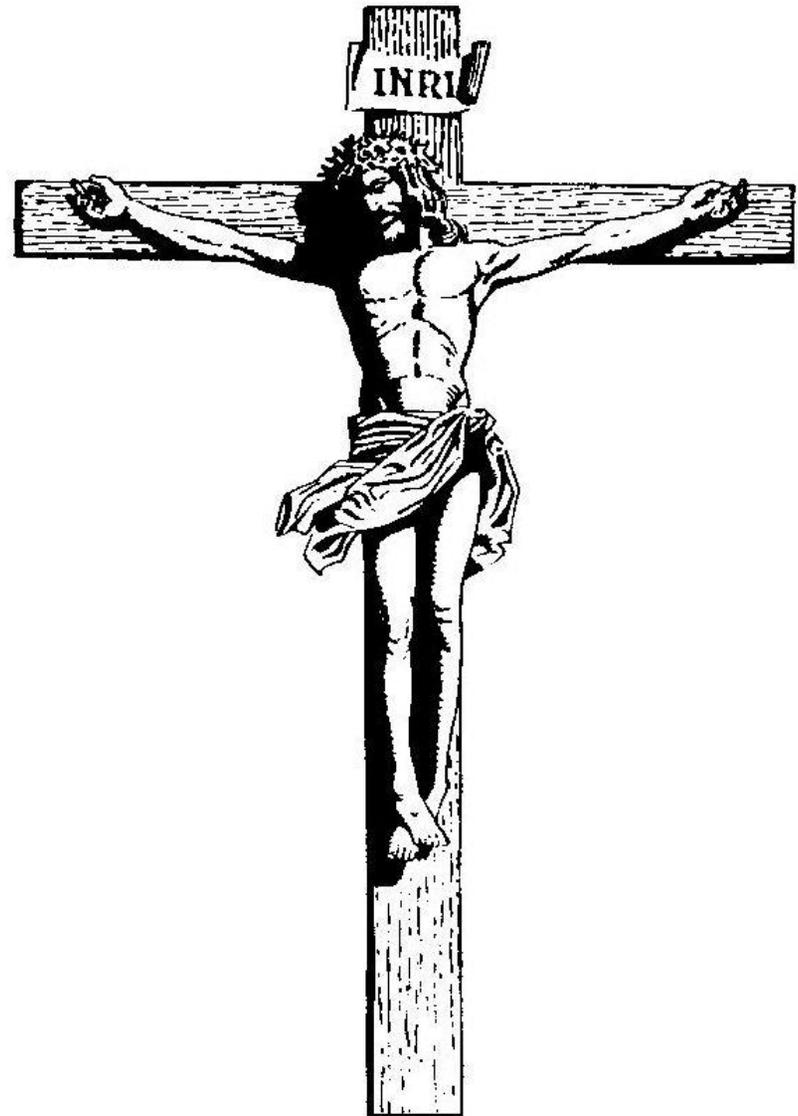
**Tuesday - Chapter 2** And just look at yourselves: God's Word took root in your hearts, didn't it? So much so that you got persecuted by Jesus-haters, too. **Chapter 3** Although we are apart, our hearts have grown more fond of you.

**Wednesday - Chapter 4** We are able to disprove slanderers by living as children of God, avoiding sexual immorality, being devoted to one another, leading a quiet life, minding our own business, and holding down our jobs . . . in view of Judgment Day arriving during our own lifetime; in that moment we will have equal footing with those raised from their graves to eternal life in heaven. **Chapter 5** Stay awake! Review your privileged responsibilities so that your *whole spirit, mind, and body be preserved blameless* for Jesus' approval.

**Thursday - 2 Thessalonians 1** We continue to hear good things about you, which in itself is proof that you are on God's side, escapees from everlasting destruction. **Chapter 2:1-6** Since Judgment Day is just beyond the horizon, you should know that prior to daybreak many Christians will defect to a personage who gains control of their hearts and lives; he usurps lordship in the Church, *so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*.

**Friday - Chapter 2:7-12** He also uses satanic tricks to deceive the gullible, and by robbing them of the love of the Truth, they believe his lies. Lord, how shall we escape this Anti-Christ? By loving the Word entrusted to us! God put the AntiChrist on a long leash until the Reformation choked him with the Word of God—the truth that salvation is God's gift, free and clear, complete and perfect in Jesus' righteousness. [The Papacy is still choking on it.]

**Saturday – Chapter 2: 13-17** So what's our best defense? We entrust ourselves to God, *who called us by His gospel for obtaining the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand fast and hold onto the doctrines which we were taught, whether by word of mouth or by written epistles*. **Chapter 3** How then shall we live during our time of grace? We keep on praying that *the Word of the Lord may have free course* among humanity; we don't join in shoddy behavior but lead with our good example. Of course, we live each day under the auspices of *the Lord of peace Himself*. *May His grace be with you all. Amen.*



“...if righteousness comes through the law,  
then Christ died in vain.”

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Easter Three.....May 5, 2019

It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you *ought* to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'" (James 4:15-16).

It is wisdom to plan. However, the Christian wise unto salvation commits his way to the Lord, trusts in Him with confidence that He will bring it to pass (Psalm 37:5) according to His will. The child of God recognizes that to exclude the Heavenly Father from one's plans is folly. "'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you provided.' So is he who lays up treasure in for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20-21)? It is a mistake, if not a fatal one, to forget that the Lord determines our days on earth, and that He is the ultimate Decider of what plans shall or shall not come to fruition.

Acknowledge your transgressions unto Him who forgives you in Christ Jesus. With *thanksgiving*, pray earnestly, boldly, with confidence, for your neighbor and yourself, your health, your home, your family, your church, your nation, for whatever lies on your heart, for the Lord is the Provider of all good things. With *thanksgiving* pray to Him as your loving Father Who tells you that He has pity on those who fear Him (Psalm 103:3), and Who knows better than you do what you need. He knows what is or is not good for you at a given time. He knows when to test and try you for your benefit and growth in faith. Pray for faith and strength to bear the trials and tests of life. Pray for wisdom to know His will and the strength to walk in it. Pray in the spirit of the hymnwriter who wrote:

**"What God ordains is always good; His will abideth holy.  
As He directs My life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed in every need does well know how to shield me,  
To Him, then, I will yield me" (TLH – 521).**

Our Lord, confronted with the anguish of pain and death, prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Because Jesus bowed to the will of His Father and reconciled us unto God, we have the privilege, through faith to call Jesus' Father, our Father. Whatever the Father wills for us in this life we recognize to be to our benefit and blessing, for our Savior's suffering death and resurrection confirmed for us the plan and will of our Father Who said: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power And the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads."

<sup>6</sup>So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

<sup>7</sup>And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

<sup>11</sup>So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. <sup>12</sup>And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

<sup>13</sup>Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

<sup>17</sup>And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

<sup>19</sup>So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. \*

## EPISTLE LESSON:

## **GALATIANS 2:1-21**

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with *me*.<sup>2</sup> And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.<sup>3</sup> Yet not even Titus who *was* with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.<sup>4</sup> And *this occurred* because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),<sup>5</sup> to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

<sup>6</sup> But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed *to be something* added nothing to me.<sup>7</sup> But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as *the gospel* for the circumcised *was* to Peter<sup>8</sup> (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),<sup>9</sup> and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.<sup>10</sup> They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

<sup>11</sup> Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;<sup>12</sup> for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.<sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

<sup>14</sup> But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”<sup>15</sup> We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,<sup>16</sup> knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Our Father in heaven has already determined what shall be the span of our life on earth (Psalm 31:15). Job reminds us that in His hand “is the life of everything” (Job 31:15). There are no guarantees of anything on this earth, not even life itself. All people live under the shadow of, “Here today, gone tomorrow.” James speaks of life as a vapor. Job described quickness of life as swifter than a weaver’s shuttle (Job 7:6), as a breath (7:7), as vanishing cloud (7:9), as swifter than a runner (9:25), to the swiftness of an eagle (9:26). The Psalmist compared it to smoke (Psalm 102:3) and to withering grass (102:4). In the scheme of life from eternity to eternity, our life is but an inconsequential speck. George Bernard Shaw said, “One out of one dies” (Kelly, Earl: “James—A Primer for Christian Living”, p. 214), Consequently, lacking a guarantee for tomorrow the child of God retires at night thanking the Lord for the blessings—spiritual and material-- of the day past, praying also, “*If I should live another day, I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my way.*”

Recognizing the lack of a guarantee of tomorrow does not mean His children, whose focus is heaven, blindly or without plan let whatever will be happen without forethought. We anticipate tomorrow, “A man’s heart plans his way...” (Proverbs 16:9). Solomon also wrote, “There are many plans in a man’s heart... (Proverbs 19:21). Planning the next day or the future is true of the unbeliever as well as the believer.

However, under the influence of the Spirit, how the believer whose God is the Lord plans differs from the unbelievers who are bereft of the Spirit. Solomon wrote, “A man’s heart plans his way, *but the Lord directs his steps.*” Solomon’s counsel in Proverbs 19:21 reads, “There are many plans in a man’s heart, *nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.*” Whereas there is similarity in what unbelievers and believers may plan for tomorrow, unlike the planning of unbelievers, the believer’s plans for tomorrow pertaining to the temporal, material, pleasurable, things of life conclude with “*Father, your will be done.*”

However, since believers whose faith and hope is in the Lord God still have the sinful flesh about them, they need the Scriptural counsel offered by Solomon who wrote, “*Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth*” (Proverbs 27:1). Paul wrote to the Philippians, “*Be anxious for nothing...*” (Philippians 4:6). Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Therefore *do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble*” (Matthew 6:34). Jesus prefaced His counsel with, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be added to you” (v.33). The Lord’s counsel puts planning in the right perspective.

Our Lord also spoke through the apostle, James, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life?”

## THE WILL OF THE LORD IS ALWAYS GOOD

The will and plans of the Triune God are established in eternity. From eternity, it was and is His will that no one should perish in his sin. Therefore, the Lord God developed a plan within His compassionate heart. He announced it to Adam and Eve. He reiterated it through the prophets. In the fulness of time He fleshed out His plan that His will might be accomplished. He sent His only Son, the incarnate Son of God, placed Him under the law, and by the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead, reconciled the world unto Himself. The purpose of the plan conceived in eternity, and fulfilled in time, is declared in the inspired Word: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21, Joel 2:32). Jesus confirms the will, the plan, and the purpose of the Father, saying, "And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

Believers thank the Lord for the fulfillment of the Father's will and plan in their life. They thank Him, further, that we who by nature were dead in trespasses and sins, incapable of restoring ourselves to His good graces, or come to faith, were by the power of the Holy Spirit alone gifted with faith and the hope of eternal life. Believers in Christ unto eternal life *were not and are not assisted* in coming to faith. The *unregenerate as were we all at birth were and are born anew through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, the gospel being the medium*. "He called you by our gospel" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). Faith unto salvation is the gift of God; it is not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8). Conversion to faith, as salvation itself, is a gift of grace.

God's plan and the fulfillment of His will for our salvation is revealed to us in the inspired Word of God. It is sealed to us by the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Children of God through faith in Christ Jesus do not pray, "Give us salvation and receive us to glory if it is Your will." That would be an expression of doubt. We *know* it is His will. The cross and empty tomb testify to it. We *have* the word and promise of the Father, "that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In the Scripture we have "the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). Therefore, when we pray, we thank the Lord for the gift of eternal life. We pray that He *will keep us* in the faith. In this regard, we have Jesus' promise, "I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail" (Luke 22:32). We have His promise that all who hear His voice *have* eternal life and shall not perish (John 10:27-28). "Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

While we know what God's will and plan is for our salvation, except that He bids us pray and promises to hear us, we do *not know* His will for us with respect to the temporal and material aspects of life.

<sup>17</sup> "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup> For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. <sup>19</sup> For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

<sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain." \*

**THE GRADUAL** -- (A Prayer for the Sunday read responsively)

**Pastor:** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**Congregation:** We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**P:** I am the Good Shepherd;

**C:** The Good Shepherd gives His Life for the sheep. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**P:** I am the Good Shepherd;

**C:** I know my sheep and my sheep know me! Hallelujah!

**(Sung)** Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

"Glory be to Thee, O Lord!"

**GOSPEL LESSON:**

**JOHN 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

<sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

<sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

"Praise be to Thee, O Christ!"

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

**THE NICENE CREED (TLH PG. 22)**

**HYMN: 389** - "Not What These Hands Have Done"

## SERMON:

## **GALATIANS 2:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain." \*

### IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES THROUGH THE LAW...

....Jesus' death was a useless tragedy.  
...prophets...angels...and apostles lied.  
...you are your own Savior.

## THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

### THE OFFERING HYMN:

(TLH 442:1-2)

Lord of Glory, who hast bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that hast freely given Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil With Thine own unsparing hand;  
Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Gladly, freely, of Thine own;  
With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

## PRAYER(S)

HYMN: 387:1-4 - "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice!"

## THE LITURGY: (Pg. 24ff)

The Preface, The Sanctus (Pg. 26), The Lord's Prayer, The Words of Institution, The Pax Domini, The Agnus Dei (Pg. 28).

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT:



The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good.

**We ask all communicants to speak to the pastor before coming forward for the sacrament, especially if you have not communed here**

**before. The Lord's Supper will be received standing or kneeling before the communion railing. Communicants are asked to come forward together. Those who would like the common cup please indicate it to the pastor. Those who would like the individual cups please take one and then dispose of it in one of the small disposals near the front.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 330** – "I Come to Thee, O Blessed Lord;  
**310** – "Thy Table I Approach"

## THE LITURGY: (Pg. 29ff)

The Nunc Dimittis, The Thanksgiving; Prayer, "Amen." The Salutation; The Benedicamus.

## THE BENEDICTION: Pastor

**CONGREGATION:** (Sung) "Amen, Amen, Amen."

**CLOSING HYMN: 387:5-8** – "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice!"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 5, 2019

## THIS WEEK

**Monday:** Study Conference, Marquette, 10am

**Wednesday:** Choir 6pm; Bible Class, 7pm

**Thursday:** Ladies of Calvary, 7pm

**Sunday:** Worship 9:30am; SS 10:45am; BC 10:50am

## CHOIR PRACTICE

The Choir practices Wednesday at 6pm.

**DAILY REST DEVOTIONAL** -- The first "Daily Rest" devotional, a project of the CLC Board of Education and Publications and contributed to by many CLC Pastors, has been placed on the back table. "Daily Rest" is a subscription-based devotion periodical delivered **four** times per year with daily devotions for the subsequent fourteen weeks. If you are interested in subscribing to receive these devotions delivered to you, subscriptions are **\$15** a year. **If you wish to subscribe, please send your check to the address inside the front cover.**

## LADIES OF CALVARY

The Ladies of Calvary meet this Thursday at 7pm in Pastor's Office.

## THE SICK AMONG US

Catherine Heideman is slowly regaining her strength and improving. She is no longer in the ICU. ● Pastor Emeritus Walter Schaller has returned home from the Hospital and is improving. ●Hazel Paull was admitted to the Hospital with the Rhinovirus. She is expected to return home soon, please keep her in your prayers.

## LITTLE GUS HOSSIER

The 9-month-old grandson of Joe Libby's Daughter Nicole Hossier passed away this past week. Mercifully the little boy was baptized in the name of the Triune God, and has been reserved a room in the Father's House.

## EPHESIANS

### GENERAL:

The Epistle (or letter) to the Ephesians is written to Christians in the city of Ephesus. Ephesus means 'city of light'. The city of Ephesus was an important commercial center in Asia Minor. When Paul wrote this letter, the city was situated near a dredged canal.



The city of Ephesus was famous for its religious temple. The Temple of Diana (Roman name) or Artemis (Greek name) was and still is considered one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world (Acts 19:35). The city of Ephesus no longer exists in the same location; today there are only ruins at that site. This fact shouldn't surprise us because the Lord Jesus spoke words of warning to the Ephesians in Revelation 2:4-5, warning them of judgment to come if they did not repent. History tells us that the city was destroyed in 262 AD and by the 1300's it had completely disappeared.

### AUTHOR AND WRITER

While the book is commonly known as Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, we understand that God is the true author of this book. The Apostle Paul is certainly the man that the Holy Spirit used to write this letter.

### BACKGROUND:

At the end of his Second Missionary Journey, Paul visited Ephesus for the first time. He remained there only 3 months, but during those 3 months he preached the Gospel of Christ. The Ephesians received the word and even asked Paul to stay...but he was unable. However, Priscilla and Aquila fellow tent-makers and believers he had met in Corinth did stay in Ephesus. After Paul left, Apollos came to Ephesus and worked there during his absence. -- **Acts 18:18-21; 24-27.**

Paul returned to Ephesus on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey, staying for nearly 3 years. He won 12 disciples of John the Baptist to Christ, and preached in the synagogue for 3 more months. The people persecuted Paul, who then taught in the school of Tyrannus for 2 years. When Paul performed miracles, which caused people to give up magic arts, the people became unhappy. Later the entire city came into an uproar because images of Diana were not being purchased – due to Paul's preaching of the Gospel. Though Paul left, he left a flourishing church composed mostly of Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11, 3:1). – **Acts 18:23-19:41.**

Paul left for Macedonia, but upon his return trip to Jerusalem he met with the Elders of the church in Ephesus, and encouraged them – **Acts 20:17-38.**

Paul came to Ephesus one final time after this letter was written. During that visit, he left Timothy as Pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3, 3:14). We are also told that another man named Onesiphorus served in Ephesus. Finally, the Apostle John is said to have moved to Ephesus and wrote from Patmos a section of Revelation (2:1-7) as directed by Jesus to the Christians in Ephesus.

### TIME:

We don't know exactly when this letter was written, though some guess 60 AD. The letter to the Ephesians is one of Paul's 'Captivity Letters'. It is grouped along with Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Ephesians seems to have been written by Paul while in Prison in Rome (Eph. 3:1, 4:1, 6:20 – Acts 28:16-31). The letter was carried from Rome to Ephesus by Tychicus (6:21-22) who was also to give the readers fuller information about his captivity.

### PURPOSE:

It appears that there was no immediate, urgent problem in Ephesus that needed to be corrected. It seems that Paul wrote the letter as an Apostle to strengthen the congregation. He wanted them to see his imprisonment – not as a shameful predicament – but as a positive situation in the LORD. He asked the churches not to weep for him, but to pray for him and rejoice that he was counted worthy to suffer for Christ.

The Epistle to the Ephesians emphasizes the wisdom of God. It also speaks in detail of the Holy Christian Church and its head, Jesus Christ.

### OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction and Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Concerning the Gospel (1:3-3:21)
- III. Encouragement in the Gospel (4:1-6:20)
- IV. Closing remarks, benediction (6:21-24)

**Luther:** In this Epistle St. Paul teaches, in the first place, what the Gospel is, how it was ordained by God alone in eternity and merited and caused to go forth through Christ, in order that all who believe in it might become just, pious, quickened, saved, and free from Law, sin and death . . . Moreover, he teaches us to avoid the false doctrines and precepts of men, in order that we may remain with the one Head, become certain, justified and perfect in Christ alone, in whom we have everything, needing nothing outside of Him . . . Finally he teaches us to exercise and prove our faith in good works, to avoid sin, and to battle with spiritual weapons against the devil, in order that through the cross we may be confirmed in hope."

## EPHESIANS

### GENERAL:

The Epistle (or letter) to the Ephesians is written to Christians in the city of Ephesus. Ephesus means 'city of light'. The city of Ephesus was an important commercial center in Asia Minor. When Paul wrote this letter, the city was situated near a dredged canal.



The city of Ephesus was famous for its religious temple. The Temple of Diana (Roman name) or Artemis (Greek name) was and still is considered one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world (Acts 19:35). The city of Ephesus no longer exists in the same location; today there are only ruins at that site. This fact shouldn't surprise us because the Lord Jesus spoke words of warning to the Ephesians in Revelation 2:4-5, warning them of judgment to come if they did not repent. History tells us that the city was destroyed in 262 AD and by the 1300's it had completely disappeared.

### AUTHOR AND WRITER

While the book is commonly known as Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, we understand that God is the true author of this book. The Apostle Paul is certainly the man that the Holy Spirit used to write this letter.

### BACKGROUND:

At the end of his Second Missionary Journey, Paul visited Ephesus for the first time. He remained there only 3 months, but during those 3 months he preached the Gospel of Christ. The Ephesians received the word and even asked Paul to stay...but he was unable. However, Priscilla and Aquila fellow tent-makers and believers he had met in Corinth did stay in Ephesus. After Paul left, Apollos came to Ephesus and worked there during his absence. -- **Acts 18:18-21; 24-27.**

Paul returned to Ephesus on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey, staying for nearly 3 years. He won 12 disciples of John the Baptist to Christ, and preached in the synagogue for 3 more months. The people persecuted Paul, who then taught in the school of Tyrannus for 2 years. When Paul performed miracles, which caused people to give up magic arts, the people became unhappy. Later the entire city came into an uproar because images of Diana were not being purchased – due to Paul's preaching of the Gospel. Though Paul left, he left a flourishing church composed mostly of Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11, 3:1). – **Acts 18:23-19:41.**

Paul left for Macedonia, but upon his return trip to Jerusalem he met with the Elders of the church in Ephesus, and encouraged them – **Acts 20:17-38.**

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