

# *Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church*

*Sharing God's love with those around us and our lives with one another.*

*Preparing for today, tomorrow and eternity.*

*Caring for each other, our community, and the world.*



April 28, 2024

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool  
2055 S. Franklin St. Rd.  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

[office@mtcalvarydecatur.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydecatur.org)

[www.mtcalvarydecatur.org](http://www.mtcalvarydecatur.org)

Member of Lutheran School Association

# WELCOME TO MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL!

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am  
Christian Education Hour (Kids & Adults): 10:30am  
Midweek Bible Studies: See Bulletin Insert

Brett Hinrichs, Pastor      Ethan Hart, Vicar  
Pastor Email: [pastor@mtcalvarydecatour.org](mailto:pastor@mtcalvarydecatour.org)  
Vicar Email: [vicar@mtcalvarydecatour.org](mailto:vicar@mtcalvarydecatour.org)  
Office Phone: 428-0641      Pastor Cell Phone: 847-553-8296

*Welcome...* to all who worship here this morning, especially our guests. What a blessing it is to come together in God's house to hear His Word and return to Him our thanksgiving and praise. We are happy to have you worshipping with us.

*Connect Card Booklet...* We encourage all who attend our services to record your name in our "Connect Card" booklets. You'll find them at the edges of each row or have them passed to you by a neighbor. The information you share helps us better serve you in your faith.

*Guests...* if you are looking for a church home, we'd love to have you become a member of Mt. Calvary! If you would like to know what we believe or are interested in joining our congregation, please mark the appropriate box on the Connect Card which should be passed to you at the beginning of the service. God wants every Christian to belong to a local community of believers where they can be fed and nourished with God's Word and Sacraments.

*Families with children...* In addition to activity bags for younger children, we have a nursery and a cry room conveniently located close to the Sanctuary if you should need to leave the service with your child. There is a TV and the Service can be heard over the speaker system. You can find a changing table with supplies there or in the restrooms.

*Offerings...* In thankfulness for what God has given us, we give a portion of our time, talents, and treasure back to God. Please see the laminated card in the hymnal rack in the pews for more information about how to give.

*Anyone...* who needs, or knows someone who needs, spiritual help, guidance, or comfort, please feel free to contact our Pastor.

*For Those Attending the Lord's Supper...* In the Lord's Supper God gives the incredible gift of forgiveness through His body and blood that is in, with, and under the bread and wine. Knowing that not everyone shares this belief, if you are not a member of Mt. Calvary or a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we encourage you to speak to our pastor before communing. If you need to avoid alcohol, the white wine is alcohol free. For those who are gluten sensitive, please inform the pastor or elder, so they can offer you your own gluten-free wafer.

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service, Setting 1, page 151

## PREPARATION & WELCOME

Before we begin our service, please take a moment to fill out the "Connect Card" Booklet in your pew. We use this information to get to know our guests and best serve all God's people in their faith. If you are the last in your row to complete a "Connect Card", please leave the booklet there for an usher to collect at end of the worship service.

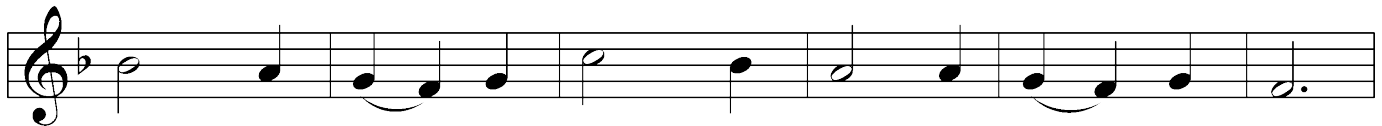
## OPENING HYMN: #700 ..... "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us  
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in  
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -  
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee  
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88//Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87//Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

V: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION

V: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

V: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

## DECLARATION OF GRACE

V: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows

on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## INTROIT

*Ps. 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: Jn 16:16*

V: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.

**C: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.**

V: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

**C: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

V: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

**C: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

V: Glory be to the Father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**C: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.**

## KYRIE

V: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: ♪Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: ♪Lord, have mercy.**

V: 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.

**C: ♪Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: ♪Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: ♪Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

V: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

V: Let us pray together.

C: **O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING .....Nehemiah 4:1-14

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

*Pg. 754 in the Red Bible*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING .....James 1:2-12

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

*Pg. 1880 in the Red Bible*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

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.

## HOLY GOSPEL ..... John 15:1-8

*Pg. 1676 in the Red Bible*

V: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: **♩Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

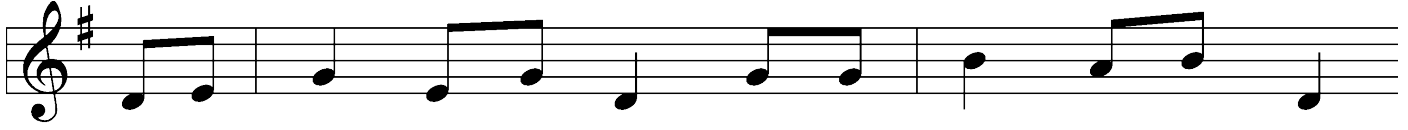
*(The Gospel is read)*

V: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

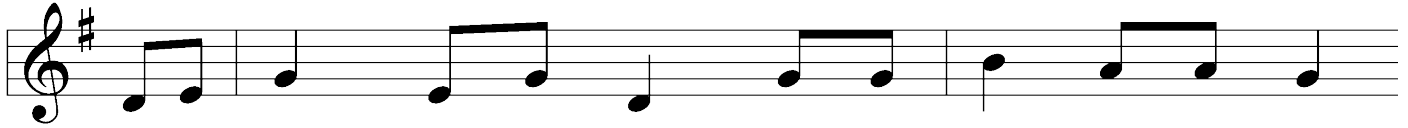
C: **♩Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

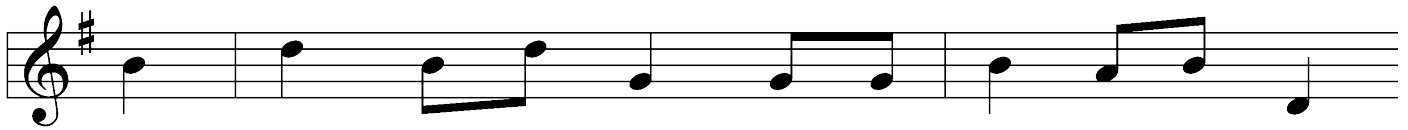
## HYMN OF THE DAY#728 .....“How Firm a Foundation”



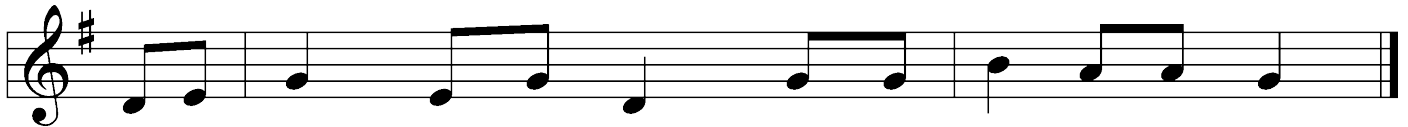
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose  
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,  
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;  
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.  
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!  
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt./Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester//Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### CONFESSION OF FAITH .....Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy Christian Church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life † everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

V: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

*After each prayer, the congregation responds as the pastor directs*

## OFFERTORY

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

V: Let us pray together.



**C:** Lord Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, we thank You that You continue to preach Your Gospel among us. Send Your blessing upon the Word You have spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You. Give us strength to fight the good fight of faith and to overcome all the temptations of sin, death, and the devil so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

V: Trusting in all of Your promises, we are bold to pray...

**C:** 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.

## BENEDICTION

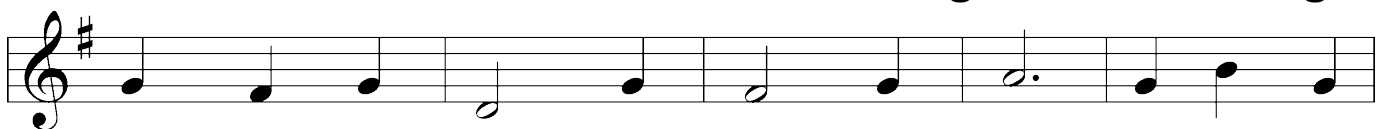
V: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

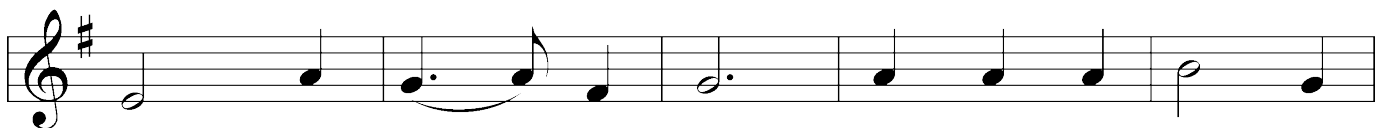
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

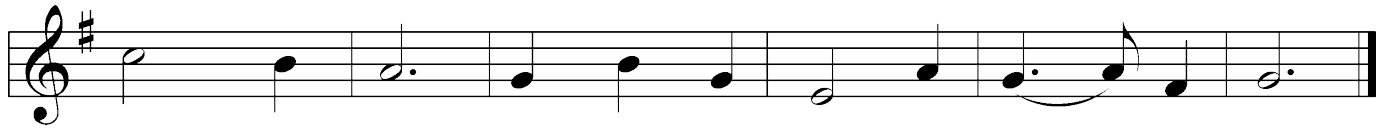
## CLOSING HYMN #664..... "Fight the Good Fight"



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your  
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less  
 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and  
 eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -  
 mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing  
 not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.  
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, alt.//Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, 1821, New York//Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon Notes:

## We Believe and Teach That...

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- The Ten Commandments are a revelation of God's will for our lives.
- Since we cannot keep the Ten Commandments perfectly we cannot save ourselves.
- God provided our salvation for us by sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, to die for our sins.
- Jesus proved His effectiveness by rising from the dead on the third day.
- The only way to heaven is to trust that God has saved us through Jesus' work and his all sufficient death for us.
- God expects His people to gather for worship and service in the local congregation.

## Our Ministries Include...

- SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 A.M.
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR AT 10:30 A.M.  
Join us for children's Sunday school classes and various adult Bible Studies
- MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 6:30 P.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 9:00 A.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 6:00 P.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- MT. CALVARY CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL  
A Christ centered learning program for 3 and 4 year old children
- UNITY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
A quality Christian Elementary & Jr. High school (Pre-K Bridge Class; Grades K-8)  
A quality Christian High School

## We Invite You To...

1. RELAX! At Mt. Calvary you always be yourself and know that you will be welcomed and cared for as a person who is created and loved by God.
2. BRING THE KIDS. For Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students, we offer a "Children's Church" time during the sermon, where students learn an age-appropriate Bible story. For your preschool children we provide a supervised nursery that runs simultaneously with our services. There is also a diaper changing station available in the nursery for your convenience.
3. ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH US. Join us after worship for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by, pick up a cup of coffee or tea, and enjoy some fellowship before the 10:30 AM Bible Study begins.

### Our Staff

| Office Staff     | A/V Tech(s)                      | Music           | Sunday School                    | Preschool                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Shannon Lanier | ▪ Joel Fletcher<br>▪ Jim Stevens | ▪ Lisa Peterman | ▪ Gale Krueger<br>▪ Dan Reynolds | ▪ Cathy Kurecki<br>▪ Jessica Stock |

### Our Officers

|                               |                                    |                                       |                                         |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President<br>▪ Tom Little     | Vice-President<br>▪ Alan Little    | Secretary<br>▪ Brenda Roland          | Treasurer<br>▪ Rodger Koester           | Fin. Secretary<br>▪ Marsha Warnick |
| Head Elder<br>▪ Doug Gerhardt | Unity Board Rep<br>▪ Joel Fletcher | Unity Found. Rep<br>▪ Bonnie Seeforth | Property Comm. Chair<br>▪ Roger Harting |                                    |

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

*Phone (217) 428-0641*

*Email: [office@mtcalvarydecatour.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydecatour.org)*

*Website: [www.mtcalvarydecatour.org](http://www.mtcalvarydecatour.org)*

### **MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*"Sharing God's Love with those around us  
and our lives with one another."*