

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.



March 8, 2026

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

office@mtcalvarydecatur.org

www.mtcalvarydecatur.org

Member of Unity Christian School

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

Pastor Email: pastor@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 Third Sunday in Lent

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: #684 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.//Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857//Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: 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.

P: 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.

ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 84:1-4; antiphon: v.5

P: Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

C: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

P: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

C: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

P: Blessèd are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

C: 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.

P: Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

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

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

P: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together.

C: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING.....Exodus 17:1-7

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pg. 114 in the Red Bible

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING.....Romans 5:1-8

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pg. 1752 in the Red Bible

C: Thanks be to God.

LENTEN VERSE



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL John 4:5-26

Pg. 1651 in the Red Bible

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

C: ♪Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #763 "When Peace, like a River"



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

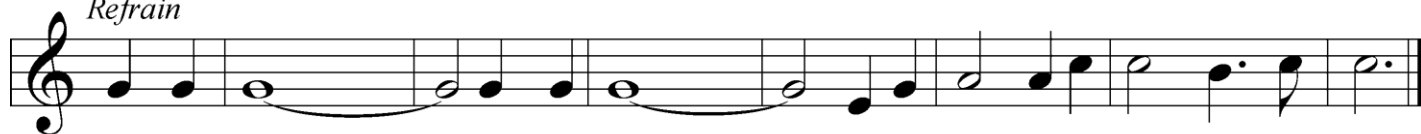


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de-scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-88, alt./Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-76/Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

CONFESSON OF FAITHApostles' 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

P: 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

P: 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

P: 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

P: 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 #918..... "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"



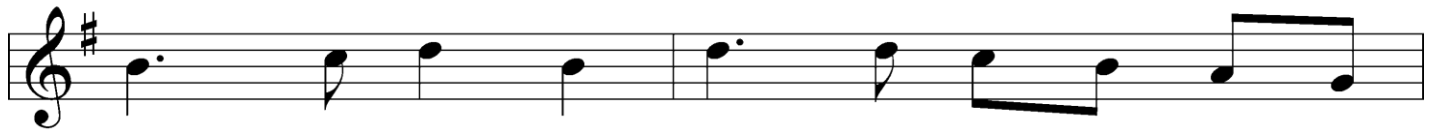
1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more;
shield;
Thee;
Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. William Williams, 1717-91//Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932//Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Notes:

We Believe and Teach That...

- The Bible is the innerant 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.
With a children's message and a family forward focus
- 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)
- 1st & 3rd THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 2:00 P.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- MT. CALVARY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
A quality Christian learning program for 3 and 4-year-old children
- UNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (A MINISTRY OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION)
A quality Christ-Centered School (Pre-K Bridge Class through High School)
- AND MANY MORE...

We Invite You To...

1. RELAX. At Mt. Calvary you can rest assured that you will never be put on the spot, never singled out or embarrassed.
2. BRING THE KIDS. For Kindergarten through 4th Grade students, we offer a "Children's Church" time during the sermon, where students learn an age-appropriate Bible story. 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.
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
▪ Lori Weatherford	▪ Joel Fletcher ▪ Jim Stevens ▪ Sleeth/Gillum Family	▪ Steve Ford ▪ Lisa Peterman ▪ Bonnie Fiesler	▪ Gale Krueger ▪ Dan Reynolds	▪ Cathy Kurecki ▪ Suzanne Wills ▪ George Roberts

Our Officers

President ▪ Doug Gerhardt	Vice-President ▪	Secretary ▪ Janice Weathers	Treasurer ▪ Rodger Koester	Fin. Secretary ▪ Marsha Warnick
Head Elder ▪ John Graff	Unity Board Rep ▪ Joel Fletcher	Unity Found. Rep ▪	Property Comm. Chair ▪ Cliff & Matt Boleyn	

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Phone (217) 428-0641

Email: office@mtcalvarydecatour.org

Website: www.mtcalvarydecatour.org

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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