



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Saturday Evening Worship - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.**  
**May 4 & 5, 2024**

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**Prayer Before Worship:** Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show your love to the world. Amen.

**Prelude Music (Sun)**

**“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”  
“Travelers On The Journey”**

**WOV #671  
Dakota Road Music**

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Senior Recognition and Blessing (Sun)

**Recognition of Our Seniors**

**Val Rahrs**

**Blessing of Our Seniors**

**Pastor Kathy**

In John 15 Jesus says, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing...As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments and abide in his love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

A unique way that God has given us to abide in him is through the Body of Christ we call the church. Our hope and prayer as a congregation is that you are able to see the importance of being a part of God's family; that you will seek out a community of faith to nurture you and strengthen you wherever you may go.

As we celebrate with you we also want to send you with our blessings; so parents if you would come forward now, and place your hand on your youth's head or shoulders and bless your youth using the blessing in your bulletin or on the screens.

**Parent's Blessing of Graduate: Child of God, as you graduate, we ask God's presence and power to be with you all the days of your life. May God, the Father, who brought you to this day, continue to strengthen and guide you as you continue on your life's journey. May Jesus Christ, our Lord, continue to clarify for you the meaning and purpose of your life and help you find increasing joy and fulfillment in His service. May the Holy Spirit assist you as you search for God's will in your life. Amen.**

**Graduate's Blessing of Parents: Child of God, as I graduate, I ask God's presence and power to be with you all the days of your life. May God, the Father, who brought us to this day, continue to strengthen and guide you as you continue on your life's journey. May Jesus Christ, our Lord, continue to clarify for you the meaning and purpose of your life and help you find increasing joy and fulfillment in His service. May the Holy Spirit assist you as you search for God's will in your life. Amen.**

Congregation will you please join me.

**We congratulate you as parents and graduates on this day. May God's grace and power go with you and may you know our prayers surround you as you begin this new chapter in your lives.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, we pray now for those graduating, praising you for their gifts and asking for your continued blessing. Grant them patience in their struggles, hope for the future, wisdom in their decisions and confidence that you will guide them well. Help parents and others who share concern for the dangers and decisions that will be faced beyond their caring eyes. Reassure them where they have done their best and heal their regrets as they entrust their sons and daughters to your care.

God of grace, we commend our graduating sisters and brothers to you. By your unceasing Spirit, may their baptismal light so shine before others that they may see their good works and glorify you in heaven and on earth. **Amen.**

**Senior Slide Show**

**‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

Welcome Song:

“What A Friend”

OSB #246

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations,  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ‡ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Song of Praise:**

**"Change My Heart, O God"**

**ELW #801**

**Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like you.  
You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like you.**

**\*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.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

O God,

**you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

### **First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

### **Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation: "Halle, halle, hallelujah"**

**Page 172**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

**\*Gospel: John 15:9-17**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Kids Sermon (Sun):**

**Val Rahrs**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Kathy**

*(Silence for reflection and meditation)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**"You Are Mine"**

**ELW #581**

**1. I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fear  
You will hear My voice  
I claim you as My choice  
Be still, and know I am near**

**2. I am hope for all who are hopeless  
I am eyes for all who long to see  
In the shadows of the night  
I will be your light  
Come and rest in Me**

*Chorus:* **Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name  
Come and follow Me  
I will bring you home  
I love you and you are mine**



**3. I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name *Chorus***

**4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom  
I am the peace the world cannot give  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain  
Stand up, now, walk, and live *Chorus***

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**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 the Church (Sat):**

*Each petition ends with:*

**God of grace....hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

... Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the Church (Sun):**

**ELW #178**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
peace to all people, hope for each soul.  
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Risen One,

**you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of  
your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus  
Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

**†HOLY COMMUNION†**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 144**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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.**

**\* Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

### **Distribution of Communion:**

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

*(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.*

*APPLE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.*

*Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

**Distribution Song (Sun):**

**“We Are The Church”**

**OSB #245**

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

**✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠**

### **\*Benediction**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:**

**“The Trees of the Field”**

**W&P #138**

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands.  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy.**

**\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

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**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**✠

Prayers for healing: **Don Stahla** (knee replacement surgery), **Miranda Wright** (healing from a concussion), **Lynne** (cancer & heart arrhythmia—Laurie & JP Ruzicka’s friend), **Kurt Nikont** (recovering from foot surgery), **Sheila Miller** (health issues), **Catherine Rahrs** (major medical issues—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Larry Loeks** (improved health), **Jack Day** (stroke—Lynn Margheim’s brother), **Jeremy** (test results—Deb Brown’s son), **Bert Bessey**, **Shelia Colson** (hospital recovery), **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Drew Selck** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer— Larry Gibbs’ brother), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Zeke Chilcott** (deployed—friend of Marissa Wright), **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson).

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Larry Sibal, 5/6; Sherry Belgum, 5/7; Marissa Wright, 5/8; Jodi Christeleit, 5/10;  
Shari Copsey 5/12; Virginia Pickett, 5/12

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



**Ella Foote**

**Theron Miller**

**Mitch Moravec**



**YOUR GIVING ONLINE**

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website:  
[www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the  
**Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App**  
on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



## Coffee and Fellowship

We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.



## MAY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Oatmeal

**BACKPACKS:** Pudding Cups

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## **CLCW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Sullivan Hills Camp**

This month we are asking your help in sending monetary support to Sullivan Hills Camp which serves campers each summer in Western Nebraska. The camp offers programs for grades 1-12, special needs families, confirmation and also provides a beautiful setting for retreats. Donations may be placed in the tan "*Designated Giving*" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope.

Thank you for your support.



SULLIVAN HILLS CAMP

## **JAM End of Year Bash on May 8<sup>th</sup>!**

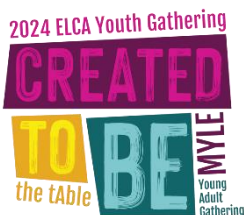
Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 5th grade. We begin with dinner (pizza/ice cream) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie at the church.

JAM will be taking a break during the summer.



## **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraiser**

We would like to make a congregational list of yard/tasks that the youth could do to raise money for their trip to New Orleans. If you have work to be done, please let Christy know and we will get things arranged.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor Kathy**

### **This Sunday – May 5**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Marti Wegelin

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Deb Brown & Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ACOLYTES:** Kippen & Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP** *Please sign up!*

### **Next Sunday – May 12**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Brody & Mattea Weitzel

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, May 5**

***Graduation Celebration Sunday***

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, May 6**

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

**Tuesday, May 7**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, May 8**

5:30 p.m. – JAM – End of Year Celebration

5:45 p.m. – Confirmation

7p.m. – Choir Practice

**Thursday, May 9**

11:30 a.m. – Exec Meeting

**Saturday, May 11**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, May 12**

***Mother's Day***

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship



MAY 5, 2024  
SIXTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Disciples lovingly accept the hospitality of others.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                    |                                   |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 15:9-17       | Love one another                  |
| Monday    | Acts 10:44-48      | Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit  |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 5:1-6       | Faith conquers the world          |
| Wednesday | Romans 12:14-21    | Marks of the true Christian       |
| Thursday  | Luke 24:44-53      | The ascension of Jesus            |
| Friday    | Leviticus 19:32-37 | Living a holy life                |
| Saturday  | Psalms 98          | Make a joyful noise               |
| Sunday    | John 17:6-19       | Christ's prayer for his disciples |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*So he [Peter] ordered them [Cornelius and his household] to be baptized  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.  
Acts 10:48 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, being a guest in another person's home is not always easy to do. Give us love and courage to graciously accept the hospitality of others for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, you are the host at every meal. Help me to receive your hospitality and to be open to the hospitality of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's steadfast love and faithfulness give you joy. (Psalm 98:3-4)



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MAY 5, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
Give Thanks for Saints



**WEEKLY MILESTONES:** Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a memorable time when you have been a guest in someone else's home.
- In what ways do you show God's love when visiting others in their home?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Acts 10:44-48.

While Peter is speaking, he witnesses the work of the Holy Spirit that leads him to baptize Cornelius and his household. Then Peter accepts the hospitality of Cornelius, a Roman soldier (Acts 10:1-2). What would it have been like for Peter to receive food and lodging in the home of a Roman and a Gentile? It was most likely a dramatic change for Peter. It is one thing to be the host and invite someone to receive the hospitality, food, family and faith traditions of your own culture. It is quite another to be open to the cultural life of someone else. It can easily be disorienting. Will you like the food? Will you know or make adjustments to the appropriate manners expected? Will you pick up the right utensil? Will you embarrass your host or yourself? Being a guest is not easy and requires attentiveness, acceptance, and grace. That is what the church is asked to do, to be vulnerable and not in control. That is what Jesus and the Holy Spirit expect of us, too.

**Discuss:** How does our openness to someone else's hospitality show the love of God to that person?

**Pray:** Gracious God, your kindness knows no end. Give us faith to be open to the lives and ways of others that together we may give praise to you through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you be open to the hospitality and cultural traditions of others?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Throughout the bible and the history of the church, singing has been a faithful way of worshipping God and expressing one's faith in God (Psalm 98). Sing or read the words of a favorite hymn. Begin your singing and reading by praying the words of Psalm 98:4: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth, break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)