



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
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Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Prayer Before Worship: Risen Lord, we are here to celebrate You! We have gathered before your empty tomb, and have rejoiced in your victory over sin and death. Fill us with your Spirit that like Thomas before us our doubts might be overcome and we can also proclaim, "My Lord and my God!" Embrace us with your still-scarred hands, and empower us to live joyfully as your people. In your name we pray. Amen.

(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 = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

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.

Visitors, if you are worshipping with us in person or online today, we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***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**

Almighty God,

with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

***Gospel: John 20:19-31**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Response after the gospel reading:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"We Walk by Faith"

ELW #635

vv. 1-3

**1. We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**

**2. We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:**

***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:**

W&P #27

(Sung Prayer Response)

**I cast all my cares upon you;
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

***Exchange of Peace**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.
**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive
our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering
world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

***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

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

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 one station in the front of the church with the
pulpit side of the church being dismissed first.*

WHITE GRAPE 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.)

"How Beautiful"

Choir

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

*Benediction

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ‡ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Song: **“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!”**

ELW #369
vv. 1&4

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

4. Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

*Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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‡In Our Thoughts and Prayers‡

Prayers for healing: **Teigen Brunner** (Healing—Deb Brown's grandson), **Chris & Molly Peterson** (COVID—Wes & Elnora Sell's grandson & wife), **John Rahrs** (heart surgery—Val Rahrs' dad), **Barb Gorr** (recovering from back surgery), **Syl Holdt** (recovering from knee surgery), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Ron Wegelin** (health issues), **Shirlie Schuldies** (health issues—mainly her heart), **Caleb Payne** (health issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Laynette Van Anne** (brain tumor—friend of Dee Brady), **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers of comfort and peace: For the family, friends and church family of the **Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church** in Kingston, WA (request from Kate Doden—Krista Gingrich's sister)

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!

Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office or let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.



Robert (Bob) Zweifel, 4/12

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



YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



APRIL FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Pancake Mix

BACKPACKS: Mac 'n Cheese Bowls

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA APRIL MISSION PROJECT:

We encourage every member of Calvary to participate in our monthly Mission Projects. April's project is the Bake-less Bake Sale. Monetary donations may be dropped off at the church office. Mark CLCW Mission Project on the envelop and leave it with, Christy, the Office Manager. Thank you from the Women's Board.

Calling all 4th-8th graders! We would like to set up an acolyte schedule again, so if you would like to be put on the acolyte schedule call/text Angie at 631-2768.

6-week digital course on **faith & money**



Enroll today in a six-week digital course on money and faith. Discover how a grace-filled way of thinking and feeling about money can bring hope and freedom to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and enhance our generosity.

Explore money focused on values, agility, options, scarcity, integrity, and giving.

<https://start.sixweeksonmoney.com/courses/ELCA>

Lutheran Family Service Telehealth Mental Health Services Now Available Here at Calvary

2020 has been a stressful year. If you have found the disruption of the holidays the last straw in your ability to cope there is help available through Lutheran Family Services. LFS (Lutheran Family Services) has partnered with several remote sites to provide counseling and other needs through computer teleconferencing (or Telehealth).

If you would like to take advantage of these services, specifically talking with an LFS counselor, come to Calvary and we can help connect you to a counselor! Or go online at www.LFSneb.org. (You can also call LFS directly at 402-441-7940 or 1-833-903-2376.) Be prepared to spend about 15 to 30 minutes doing online paperwork, including your insurance information. Counseling fees will be handled directly through LFS, there is no fee for use of the computer here at Calvary, (it was provided by LFS) or for the use of the private space.

If life has you down, know there is someone to talk to and help you work through any of life's struggles including depression, relationship issues, parenting difficulties, abuse, as well as getting through this pandemic. Starting the process is available anytime on your home computer and scheduling an appt. with a counselor is very flexible on any computer with camera and internet capabilities. If you would like to use the computer here at Calvary or begin the process with assistance through the office, please come Monday through Thursday from 9-3 PM. (Not available Friday or Weekends.) You may also contact us for more information.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – April 11

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Chris Jensen

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Jack Martin

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,
Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Next Sunday – April 18

USHERS: Deb Brown & Vicki Howell

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 11

10 a.m. – Worship

Monday, April 12

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Calvary's
Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. – Council

Tuesday, April 13

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's
Fellowship Hall

9 a.m. – Esther's Circle

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, April 14

6 p.m. – JAM

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, April 17

9 a.m. – Trustees

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, April 18

10 a.m. – Worship

APRIL 11, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-140	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psaltn 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.



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APRIL 11, 2021 HYMN OF THE WEEK *We Walk by Faith*



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:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is _____. Then pray: Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org