

*Create in me a*  
**clean heart,**



*God,*  
*and renew a*  
**right spirit**  
*within me.*

*Psalm 51:10, ESV*

**Calvary Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 26, 2020**

**Prayer Before Worship:** Eternal God, you revealed to the disciples the everlasting glory of Jesus Christ. Grant us, who have not seen and yet believe, the gift of your Holy Spirit, that we may boldly live the gospel and shine with your transforming glory, as people changed and changing through the redeeming presence of our Savior. 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.)*

**\*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IF ABLE.**  
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**, we are especially glad to have you worshiping with us. Please come again!!

**Worship/Prayer Request Cards:** Everyone is invited to fill out a Worship/Prayer Request card as you enter so that we know you are here, will be communing today or if you have a prayer request you would like us to include during worship today. Once you have filled out the card, please pass them to the inside aisle for the ushers to pick up. Thanks!

## Taking a Breather

*As we gather together, we will use the first part of our service to slow down, to settle our souls so that we might reconnect with an "unhurried God."*

### Prelude Music

#### **Preparing for Worship: Slow It Down**

We live in a fast-paced world  
trying to accomplish more and more,  
day after day after day...  
but what does it cost to be so busy?

Tonight and throughout Lent,  
we invite you to slow down, to fast from hurry,  
to fast from worry,  
to come to this time and place and find a quiet center.

Opening Verse

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Verse 1

Tune: ELW # 712

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded lives we lead  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be...**

**The Invitation to Lent: Catching our Breath**

I invite you to take a deep breath...

*[take a moment to breathe in and out slowly]*

If you have a watch on, I invite you to take it off for this time of worship.  
If you have a phone, I invite you to turn it off or put it away now.  
If that makes you anxious, that's OK.  
Just notice the feeling and give it some thought.

As Lent begins, let these simple acts (or maybe not-so-simple acts)  
be a sign of the commitment to give ourselves a break,  
to give ourselves just a moment to catch our breath,  
to give ourselves time to give God attention.

**\*Confession of Sin**

*(All may make the sign of the † cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.)*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)*

Most holy and merciful God,

**We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous  
fault, 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, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and help us make room for you throughout this Lenten season.  
**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Hymn

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

ELW #319  
vv. 1 & 4

## Taking Note

*The second part of our service invites us to “take note” of what God is saying to us this day, through scripture, music and sermon.*

### Psalm 51 (selected verses)

Read Responsively

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**In your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

Wash me thorough and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

**So you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**Wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

### Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and

wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Response after the gospel reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Message**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for reflection and meditation)*

**Hymn**

**“Restore in Us, O God”**

**ELW # 328**

### **Taking Care**

*The third part of our service is our response to having listened for God's word. We “take care” to focus through prayer, offering [and communion] on what's really important, really essential, to lives lived with depth.*

### **The “God Box”**

Fasting is an ancient practice for many traditions, and in the Christian tradition it became especially associated with the time of Lent as a way of having a more focused prayer life. Over time, giving something up during Lent gained the notion that we were doing this as some sort of punishment, but if we go back to the deeper sense of the purpose of fasting, it is simply to make more room in our lives for God.

And so for this Lent, we are going to make more room by letting go of the hurry that threatens to suck the joy out of our lives and the kind of worry that is a misguided need to control outcomes, which of course, we cannot do.

For fasting from worry, we are going to use what's called a “*God Box*.” You received slips of paper when you came in. I invite you to write on it the things you worry most about. As you come to receive ashes, you are invited to put that paper in this God Box as a sign that you are letting go of that which you cannot control into the care of God.

**The Imposition of Ashes:** *The worship leaders mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

**Choir Anthem during the Imposition**

**“Christ, We Do All Adore You”**

**Response After the Imposition**

Let us replace the time we spend worrying with the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

**“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
the courage to change the things I can;  
and the wisdom to know the difference.”**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

### ***Making Space for God: ‘Time Out’ in the Prayer Chair***

Each Wednesday night during Lent, we will spend a few minutes, in our prayer chair, making space for God in our busy lives, using an ancient prayer practice called the Breath Prayer. Breath prayer reminds us that each breath we are given is a gift from God to us and that God’s Spirit (Breath) is nearer to us than our own breath. Our hope is that you will designate a prayer chair at home and find time each day to give yourself a “time out in your Prayer Chair”, to make space for God’s presence, and connect with the very breath of God through each week’s breath prayer.

So take a moment to get comfortable...if you are holding anything in your hands you may want to put it down for the moment. Now intentionally place yourself before God. Become aware of your breathing. In rhythm with your breathing, gratefully inhale the breath of life. Exhale remembering that Jesus gave his last breath for love of you....

Now as you breathe in, pray silently or perhaps with a whisper **‘Lord, Jesus Christ’** and as you exhale, pray in the same manner **‘have mercy on me, a sinner.’**

Continue in this manner until you hear the music begin....

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**Prayers**

For the times when we have been too busy for you, God... forgive us.  
For the times when we have been too busy to take care of ourselves... forgive us.  
For the times when we have been too busy  
to let our loved ones know how much we love them... forgive us.  
Help us be open to your nudge in this season, to adjust to your timing for us.

In this moment we hear your promise:  
“You can just be you. It's enough.  
You don't have to 'perform' for me,  
or try to be anybody else except for who I created you to be.”

You do not ask us to live up to the standards of the world's version of success.  
We are your children, and you love us, just as we are.

We bring our petitions to you this day, O God. Here are the people and things we are  
worried about and yet know that we cannot control....  
*(prayers for those on the bulletin prayer list and prayer cards)*  
....through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Offering**

**Rhonda Boettcher, organ**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Holy God,  
**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace  
and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**✠The Lord's Supper✠**

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



**\*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**

Come, for the gifts of God are ready for the people of God.

**Adult Choir**

**"Communion Invitation"**

**Distribution of Communion & Healing Prayer Stations:**

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

**All are invited to participate in the Lord's meal.**

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

*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.)*

**Prayer Stations:** If you wish to have someone pray for and with you this evening, please feel free to make your way to the narthex either before or after you receive Communion. All prayers and conversations will be confidential.

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Taking It Out

*The final movement of our service is a time of committing to take a bit of this serenity and peace out into the busy world. We are reminded to "keep the main thing the main thing."*

### ***Invitation to Lenten Practices***

When you get home, find a chair that will be your Prayer Chair for Lent.

Maybe put a candle next to it to light for your prayer time.

You should have received a handout this evening with your bulletin for your own prayer time at home, and each week we will have the prayer from worship for you to take home. You will also be able to find it on our website, should you need it.

Also, when you get home, we encourage you to create your own God Box, using the instructions provided on the handout.

Use the box throughout Lent to give God your worries and concerns.

This God Box will also be available here in the sanctuary throughout Lent whenever you need or wish to add to it. Then at the end of Lent either burn or throw your worries away having entrusted them to God and we will do the same with those placed in the box here in the sanctuary.

### ***Blessing for the Unhurried Life***

May this journey change your way of thinking and being.

May this journey open you to more loving, more living, and more thriving.

May you know deeply that there is time enough  
for you, for your relationships, for your work AND for prayer.

And may you be reacquainted each day with an unhurried God  
who is calling you to breathe deeply of his presence.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you.

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

**Sending Verse**

**“Come and Find the Quiet Center”**

**Verse 3**

Tune: ELW # 712

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other’s pain,  
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There’s a place for deepest dreaming, there’s a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit’s lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

**\*Sending**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**Hymns: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days:** Text: based on Claudia F. Hemaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net License #A-721840; **Restore in Us, O God:** Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI License #182504



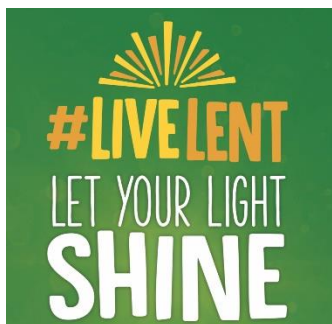
**WEDNESDAY,**

**March 4,** the Lenten meal is a taco bar sponsored by the Social Ministry Board. The meal will be at 5:30 pm with worship to follow at 6:30 pm.

## 2020 ECUMENICAL LENTEN LUNCHESES

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent. If you are interested in helping with the luncheon for March 17 when Calvary is scheduled to host, please talk to Pastors Sheryl or Chris.

### SCHEDULE



**March 3** - First United Methodist Church  
2002 4th Ave., Scottsbluff

**March 10** - WestWay Christian Church  
1701 W. 27th St., Scottsbluff

**March 17** - Calvary Lutheran Church  
17 E. 27th St., Scottsbluff

**March 24** - St. Francis Episcopal Church  
14 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff

**March 31** - First Christian Church  
2102 Avenue A, Scottsbluff

### ✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **Linda Spomer** (heart tests), **Mylah Buckley** (RSV—granddaughter of Jim & Sheila Miller), **Jordan Hein** (cancer surgery—former member of Calvary), **Wes Sell** (recovering), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering from surgery), **Dee Brady** (recovering from surgery), **Steve Kaufman** (recovering), **Ron Hettinger** (heart & medical conditions—Marcy Miller's father), **Mabel Dedlow** (healing), **Candy** (cancer surgery--friend of Susan Martin), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **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), **Kevin Feil** (healing--Melissa Guerrero's father), **Bonnie Noble** (Leah Nikont's mother).