



# *Third Sunday of Advent*

*“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)

**Sunday Morning Worship  
10:00 a.m.  
December 12, 2021**

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Prayer Before Worship:** Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. 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 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.

**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.*

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

**God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope, your peace, your joy in us, for you alone bring life out of death.**

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 28: Praise be to the Lord for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield.

**My hearts trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

*(Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy)*

**Candle Lighting Song:**

**“The Messiah”**

**vv. 3**

**Someone’s shouting I am broken. Someone’s shouting make me whole.  
Someone’s shouting come and change me. Someone’s shouting save my soul.**

*Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King. (repeat)*

**\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*(Time for reflection and self-examination)*

Light of the world,

**Your patience with us is never ending. You have shown us wonders, yet we are so often complacent. You have showered us with mercy, yet we withhold mercy from others. You have given us everything, and we act as though we were entitled all along. Forgive us these and all our secret sins. You know our hearts; we implore you to make us whole again. Amen.**

As the world darkens, the light of Christ shines even brighter. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the forgiveness of sin and walk in the light of Christ. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God’s mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise:**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**ELW #270**

**vv. 2**

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

**\*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**

Let us pray.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

### **Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is  
exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### **Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the  
peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**“Love Has Come”**

**ELW #292**

**vv. 1**

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**\*Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Response after the gospel reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Kids Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Hymn:**

**“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

**ELW #242**

**vv. 1,2,4**

- 1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.**
  
- 2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
  
- 4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.**

## ‡RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS‡

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who desire to transfer their membership into our community of faith.

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

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Response:* **I do and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another, including these new members, in our life together in Christ?

**We do and we ask God to help and guide us.**

We thank you, Lord, for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will one and you will be All-in-All.

**Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*

God of joy....**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

...O Lord, hold us in your mercy and love. **Amen.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**“Glory in the Highest”**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our hope. 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

Come to Christ's banquet.  
Feast on God's gift of grace.

## 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.*

*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.)*

## Distribution Music

Rhonda Boettcher

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

## \*Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠**

## \*Benediction

May the God of mercy keep you,  
the Holy Spirit cheer you,  
and ✠ Christ in glory greet you,  
now and at the day of his coming.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:**

**“Joy to the World”**

**ELW #267**

**vv. 1,2,4**

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace, live in love,  
and seek to be holy in all that you do.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Copyright Permissions: Liturgy:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103411. Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Music: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing:** Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. ©Public Domain; **Love Has Come:** CCLI Song # 2060820 Ken Bible © 1996, 1997 LNWhymns.com (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) *For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved.* [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License #1825044; **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn:** Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net License #A-721840; **Joy to the World:** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, ©Public Domain

## ✝️ In Our Thoughts and Prayers ✝️

Prayers for healing: **Mary Jo Huelle**, **Kathy Johnson** (hip replacement surgery), **Kathy Pickett** (cancer—Virginia Pickett’s niece), **Jan Van Newkirk** (back surgery), **Maeve Singer** (medical issues—Nick & Lindsey Singer’s 6 month old daughter), **Alice Braaten** (rehab), **Kathy Rahrs** (recovering from back surgery—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson’s cousin’s husband), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker’s great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers of comfort and peace: For the family and friends of **Katharine Nelson** (Barb Jensen’s mother) and the **Bruner’s and Brester’s**

Prayers for: **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker’s granddaughter & husband).

### Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)



Linda Hauschild, 12/12; Brock Nikont, 12/14; Jim Zier, 12/14;  
Kolten Burgner, 12/16; Mary Ellen Kropp, 12/17; Janie Voss, 12/18

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

### New Members of Calvary

We would like to welcome our new members.

**Marissa Wright**  
and

**Nick, Lindsey, William & Maeve Singer**



### **Church Membership**

*Establishing Roots in  
a faith community!*



### 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.



Please note: if you have been using the Give+ app for your donations, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app to make any future donations in this manner.

### DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Packaged Cookies

**BACKPACKS:** Applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT: Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is up! **If you took a name from the tree, please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th.**

Thank you for your generosity and caring!

### **JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (pizza) 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, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.



### **Wednesday, December 15th Confirmation & EPIC Christmas Caroling!**

Join us at 6 pm to go Christmas Caroling!!



**Endowment Fund** application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is December 31, 2021.



### Coffee and Fellowship

Coffee and fellowship will be starting back up. 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.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We invite you to **bring a poinsettia** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia *in honor of or in memory* of a loved one, forms will be available December 1 outside the office door. The remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please bring your poinsettia any time after Christmas Program on Dec. 19th and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.



### Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service

**December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church – 2002 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Scottsbluff**

A service for those for whom Christmas is not joyful; for those who are confronted with the loss of loved ones, feeling isolated and alone, perhaps even feeling depressed. On this longest night of the year, we remember and place our hope in Christ. All are welcome to attend.



*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service  
@ 5 @ 7 p.m.*

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> OR JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.**



ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS

*How it works*

**1** Choose your gift. 

**2** Get a card. 

**3** Change lives. 

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.

**Sound System Operator Needed!!**

We are in need of 1 or 2 people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested, please talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or Jim Dorn.



**Laundry Love**

Calvary is partnering with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in our community. Calvary will host Laundry Love every 3rd month starting on Jan 15th. In preparation for that day, we will need quarters as well as dryer sheets or softener. Laundry detergent has already been donated. So, save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's offices.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

### **This Sunday – December 12**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey  
**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen  
**POWERPOINT:** Jack Martin  
**ACOLYTE:** Merrick Walsh  
**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen  
**AUDIO:** Val Rahrs  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh  
**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

### **Next Sunday – December 19**

**USHERS:** Deb Brown & Vicki Howell  
**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr  
**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn  
**ACOLYTE:**  
**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten  
**AUDIO:** Jack Martin  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey  
**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 12**

10 a.m. – Worship  
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

### **Monday, December 13**

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle  
6 p.m. – Council Meeting  
7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Chris Thomas' home

### **Tuesday, December 14**

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study  
9 a.m. – Esther Circle @ Ruth Harris'  
12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary  
1 p.m. – Quilting  
7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

### **Wednesday, December 15**

5:30 p.m. – JAM  
6 p.m. – Confirmation/EPIC Christmas Caroling  
7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Saturday, December 18**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

### **Sunday, December 19**

10 a.m. – Worship/JAM Christmas Program  
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 12, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Joyous news for the needy.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Tuesday	Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Wednesday	Isaiah 55:6-13	Invitation to abundant life
Thursday	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Encouragement to be generous
Friday	Proverbs 15:2-3	Expressing joy with our words
Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So, with many other exhortations, he [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. Luke 3:18 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, bring your joy and compassion to those in need and help us to change our ways when we are insensitive to others, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us joy to know that you care for us every day of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the power and love of God give you joy through Christ our Lord.



MILESTONES  
MINISTRY

© 2021 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

DECEMBER 12, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Joy to the World*



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

### WEEKLY MILESTONES

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Tell or think about a time you experienced great joy.
- How does the message of John the Baptist bring joy as well as repentance?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Luke 3:7-18.

John the Baptist calls the people, "brood of vipers." He demands repentance. What does not reflect "good fruits" of repentance will be burned up in "unquenchable fire." John calls his message "good news." Really? Yes, really. The good news is that injustices that harm people's lives will not be tolerated. We can do simple steps to make a positive difference by giving food, clothing, and fair treatment to others. All of this prepares us for the coming of the Messiah who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and a cleansing fire. The good news for a life of faith is that there is real joy in God through Jesus Christ. The power of God is present in this Messiah, this Jesus. Thanks be to God for this joyous news!

*Discuss:* What steps can we take to prepare for the coming of the Messiah?

*Pray:* Come, Lord Jesus, bring your power and your rule of justice and mercy to all the world, and lead us to bring joy and love to others. Amen.

### SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what way can you bring joy to the needy?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This is the Third Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.

*Say:* We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, and the pink candle, the Shepherd's candle, representing the joy the shepherds felt upon finding the Christ child. May we prepare with joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*Pray:* Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, hope in your promise, and joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



MILESTONES  
MINISTRY

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)