



Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
(308) 632-8023
calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

**Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
December 18, 2022**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 today,
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

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.

Prelude Music

**“Bethlehem Highway”
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

**Dakota Road
ELW #282**

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 and your love in us in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 36: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep. You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

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

Candle Lighting Song:

“The Messiah”

vv. 4

**Jesus comes to us at Christmas. Jesus comes to make us whole.
Jesus comes, He's our Messiah. Jesus comes to save our souls. Chours**

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

Welcome Song:

“People Look East”

ELW #248

vv. 1&4

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***Confession of Sins and Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

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

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.**

**He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high;
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise His name.**

**Jesus is Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high.**

**He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high;
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise His name.**

**Jesus is Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high.**

***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**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

“Emmanuel”

W&P #36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.
(Repeat)**

***Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Brett

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"Mary's Little Boy Child"

**OSB #141
vv. 1&4**

**Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day
Hark, now hear the angels sing
New King is born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day**

**By and by they found a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little Boy Child was born
Trumpets sound and angels sing
Listen to what they say
That man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day.**

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***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.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

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

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

"Shepherd, Do You Sleep?"

Choir
Flute - Victoria Brady

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray... Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.
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 Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor, ending with... "now and forever. Amen." The congregation responds by singing the refrain from "In the Singing")

"In the Singing"

ELW #466

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

***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

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

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 Song:

“Holy Child within the Manger”

WOV #638

- 1. Holy Child within the manger,
long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to ev'ry stranger,
come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you are found.**

- 2. Once again we tell the story--
how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory
wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
kindle ev'ry land and race.**

- 3. Holy Child within the manger,
lead us ever in your way,
so we see in ev'ry stranger
how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving
and our spirits strong and true.**

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

‡ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song:**

“O Come, O come, Emmanuel”

**ELW #257
vv. 1&3**

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Bonnie** (hematoma in her leg—Susan Martin’s friend), **Neal Blumenkamp**, **Jo Heidingsfelder**, **Marlene Downer**, **Joy Arnold** (cancer— friend of Deb Brown), **Marsha Bueide** (stroke), **Marj Nikont** (covid), **Randy Schafer** (issues from another stroke), **Marti Wegelin**, **Mary Jane Brown** (stroke—Deb Brown’s mother-in-law), **Becky Michael** (stage 1 breast cancer), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Kevin Feil** (sepsis & cancer—Lindsey Singer & Melissa Guerrero’s father), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law), **Mary Jo Haack** (Becky Martin’s mother).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Mel Knoedler**.

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson), **B.J. Carr** (deployed to Poland—Dee Brady’s son-in-law).



Julie Aschenbrenner, 12/19; Jessica Laughlin, 12/20; Wes Sell, 12/25

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 **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Packaged Cookies

BACKPACKS: Applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



Thank you

Thank you to all of you for your support of the Angel Tree. You are giving these special little angels a wonderful Christmas this year by purchasing gifts and donating money to purchase gifts. God Bless you all!



Drivers Needed for Ruth Harris

Ruth Harris is in need of a few people to drive her to/from Sunday service from Emerald Court once a month. If interested in volunteering your time please contact the church office for more information.

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 anytime after December 18th and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.





Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service

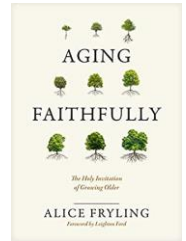
December 21st @ 7p.m.

First United Methodist Church – 2002 4th 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.

Pastor's Sunday Morning Study

You are invited to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM from November 6 - December 18 as we go through "Aging Faithfully" by Alice Fryling. As many at Calvary Lutheran enter later seasons of life, questions of life and faith take on new meaning. Aging faithfully doesn't 'just happen,' but there are wise guides who have modelled the way into this uncharted land. The group will be facilitated by Pastor Brett.



If interested, please sign up on the sheet outside the office so we can make sure to have enough study books.

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 January 31, 2022.




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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Brett Vander Berg

This Sunday – December 18

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub
LAY READER: Mary Jo Huelle
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen
COMMUNION ASSTS: Deb Brown
POWERPOINT: Matt Payne
ACOLYTES: Brynlee Payne
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
AUDIO: Val Rahrs
ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler
PIANIST/ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Rick & Lynn Margheim

Christmas Eve – December 24 **5 P.M. Service**

USHERS:
LAY READER:
COMMUNION ASST:
POWERPOINT:
MEDIA:
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

7 P.M. Service

USHERS:
LAY READER:
COMMUNION ASST:
POWERPOINT:
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

Next Sunday – December 25

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen
LAY READER: Dennis Gorr
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell
COMMUNION ASSTS: Marlene Downer, Abby Newsom
POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
ACOLYTE: Rhyan Buckley & DaKota Newsom
MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten
AUDIO: Jack Martin
ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 18

9 a.m. – Pastor’s Bible Study
10 a.m. – Worship
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 19

5 p.m. – Elders
6 p.m. – Stewards
6 p.m. – Worship & Music

Tuesday, December 20

12 p.m. – Women’s Study
1 p.m. – Quilting

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service
(also livestreamed)
7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day ***Merry Christmas***

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

DECEMBER 18, 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Who is this Jesus born of God's love?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Romans 1:1-7	A salutation
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Friday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Saturday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 1:18 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, we praise you for reaching out to us and all the world with your eternal love through your Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us each day with the gift of food. Strengthen us with this meal to love others as you love us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world bless you with God's steadfast love.



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

DECEMBER 18, 2022 HYMN OF THE WEEK Away in a Manger

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:

- When you think of a special friend or relative, how do you describe that person to others?
- When you think of Jesus, how do you describe him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 1:18-25.

Since it speaks of Jesus' birth, this is almost an odd text for the last Sunday in Advent. It could be a Christmas Eve or Day writing, except that the focus is less on Jesus' birth and more on his identity: Who is this Jesus? He is divine (conceived by the Holy Spirit) yet also of the lineage of David (son of David, a title for the royal messiah). His role is seen in his name Jesus, meaning, "to save." His entrance into history is the fulfillment of scripture: Jesus' birth is prophetically linked to Isaiah 7 by the name Emmanuel, God with us. This essential point is brought back at the end of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). It is worth reflecting on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God who comes to save and to fulfill the scriptures. This Jesus is not just a historical figure of the past but the very presence of God who is with us today. Jesus is present in the midst of our personal and community needs for salvation from sin, death, and the presence of real evil. *Discuss:* What part of Jesus' identity do you focus on or relate to during the Advent season? *Pray:* Eternal God, help us to sense the awe of Jesus' birth through whom you have come to be with us as our Savior and promise to be with us always. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others experience God's love and mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ: for the fourth and last week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy, and the fourth candle of love on the Advent wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. *Say:* Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.



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