



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 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer Before Worship: Loving God, you burst into our history through Jesus, giving us and the world your hope, peace, joy and love. May the joy of your presence be the joy we proclaim not only in this hour of worship but in our lives each and every day. 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. Please join us again soon!*

Prelude Music

**“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”**

**ELW #282
WOV #634**

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)

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

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

***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.**

Building the Story

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

“What Child Is This?”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus

This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

(Repeat Chorus)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?**

(Repeat Chorus)

“Away in a Manger”

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

“Silent Night”

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Darkness flees, all is light:
Shepherds hear the angels sing,
“Alleluia! Hail the King!”
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Chorus

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
“Alleluia, Alleluia!”
Earth to the heav’ns replies.**

(Repeat Chorus)

“Celebrate Christmas”

Choir

Celebrate with beautiful carols.
Celebrate with jubilant songs.
Celebrate, for the Savior is coming;
Jesus the Son of God is bringing hope, hope,
Hope, for a world in darkness;
Peace, peace, peace and goodwill to all.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(congregation join)

**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Chorus

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:**

(Repeat Chorus)

“Joy to the World”

**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.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

‡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:**

ELW #751

(Sung Prayer Response)

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.**

***Exchange of Peace**

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

“Christmas Grace”

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 hope and our peace. 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 Song: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

ELW #275

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,**

yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **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 Song:**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW #290

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

Refrain

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

**3. Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

***Dismissal**

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

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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.)

✚In Our Thoughts and Prayers✚

Prayers for healing: **Mary Jo Huelle**, **Jean Collins** (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: those dealing with the grief & destruction caused by the December tornadoes, **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker’s granddaughter & husband).



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.



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.



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!



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 started 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 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.



**JAM & EPIC on Christmas Break until
January 12, 2022**





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

**** PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25TH OR JANUARY 1ST.**

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 19

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

Christmas Eve – December 24

5 P.M. Service

USHERS: Dennis & Barb Gorr
LAY READER: Marti Wegelin
COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen
POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

7 P.M. Service

USHERS:
LAY READER: Susan Martin
COMMUNION ASST:
POWERPOINT: Jack Martin
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

Next Sunday – December 26

USHERS: Vicki Howell & LaDonna Schmidt
LAY READER: Susan Martin
COMMUNION ASST: Shari Copsey
POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
ACOLYTE: Rhyan Buckley
MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Merrick Walsh

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 19

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

Monday, December 20

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

Tuesday, December 21

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary
1 p.m. – Quilting

Friday, December 24

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

Saturday, December 25

NO Worship

Sunday, December 26

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

DECEMBER 19, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



We rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promises.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Micah 5:2-5a	A promised ruler
Tuesday	Hebrews 10:5-10	Christ's sacrifice once for all
Wednesday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace through obedience
Thursday	Psalms 80:1-7	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Friday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Saturday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46b-47 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Lord Jesus, come and bring hope, peace, joy, and love to our lives and for all the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, as you fill us with this meal, we pray for all to have enough food to be satisfied and enough hope to have peace and joy in Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy and love of God shine on you and give you joy.



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

DECEMBER 19, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
He Came Down



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:
- How is love more of a commitment to others than an emotion that comes and goes?
- How does Jesus' birth show God's loving commitment to us?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:39-55.

It is quite common for Christians to wonder what the God of the Old Testament has to do with the God of the New Testament and the grace, mercy, and peace described there. For Luke 1, the answer is everything. It is the same God. The God of the Old Testament keeps promises, like the promise of new life to Elizabeth, a woman beyond the child-bearing years, and Mary, a young maiden without a husband. This is the God who cares for the lowly and brings down the powerful, cares for the hungry, and sends the rich away empty. This new world order of fitting up the lowly is never fully lived out in Luke for all to see, but God's mercy definitely changes lives and households, like those of Elizabeth and Mary. God's steadfast love and mercy is here to stay, and God's people rejoice.

Discuss: Where do you see God's love today?

Pray: Loving God, just as you gave Elizabeth and Mary reason to rejoice, fill us with love and joy in your presence through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you care for the lowly and feed the hungry?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light four candles on the Advent Wreath.

Soy: We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, the third candle, the Shepherd's candle, and light the fourth candle, the Angel's candle. The fourth candle announces Jesus' mission on earth to love and unite all people, bringing them closer to God. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Pray: Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, peace to care for others, hope in your promise, joy for the coming of Jesus, and love to share through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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