



Second 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 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer Before Worship: Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)

KEY: ELW 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

**“Holy Child within the Manger”
“Each Winter As the Year Grows Old”**

**WOV #638
ELW #252**

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 and peace in us, for you alone bring life out of death.**

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 4: Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; The Lord will hear when we call to him.

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord. We will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make us dwell in safety.

(Light the Candles of Hope and Peace)

**Someone’s shouting from city. I am young, I am cold.
Someone’s shouting from the country. I am lonely, I am old.**

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.**

***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**

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets’ message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹**He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,**
⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹**that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³**the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us**
⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵**in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.**
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷**to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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: Luke 3:1-6**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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

Kids Sermon

Pastor Chris

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

ELW #255

- 1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!**
- 2. O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their king.
Like flow'rs of the field we perish,
like grass our works decay;
the pow'r and the pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.**
- 3. But the word of our Savior is faithful,
the arm of our God is strong,
who stands in the midst of the nations
and soon will right the wrong.**

**Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
in pastures of peace now lead them,
and bring them to your fold.**

***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.

“Shepherd, Do You Sleep?”

Choir

Flute - Victoria Brady

***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:

“What Feast of Love”

ELW #487

1. **What feast of love is offered here,
What banquet came from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
What gracious gift is given?
This, this, is Christ the king,
The bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!**

2. **What light of truth is offered here,
What covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
What wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
The sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!**

3. **What wine of love is offered here,
What crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
What precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
The sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!**

***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 Song:**

“People, Look East”

ELW #248
vv. 1-3

- 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.**
- 2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**
- 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

*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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✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **Kathy Pickett** (cancer—Virginia Pickett's niece), **Jan Van Newkirk** (back surgery), **Maeve Singer** (medical issues—Nick & Lindsey Singer's 6 month old daughter), **Kathy Johnson** (back & leg issues), **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.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Luverne Knoedler, 12/6; Donna Judd, 12/6; Val Rahrs, 12/6

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.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT: Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is up! Paper ornaments are on the tree with first name, age, and gift idea. Names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center. **Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th.** Please see the December Tidings for more information.



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 (sandwiches/chips) 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.



BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed for 1 last spot from 11 am – 12 pm to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 11th**. If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.

Interested in Becoming a Member of Calvary?

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, Dec 12th. Following worship, the Outreach Committee would like to invite everyone into the fellowship hall for a reception to welcome our new members. Please talk to either Pastors Chris or Sheryl if interested.



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.



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 pastors offices.

**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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – December 5

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

ACOLYTE: Brynlee Payne

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: Trea Hess

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Next 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 5

10 a.m. – Worship

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

Tuesday, December 7

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 8

5:30 p.m. – Social Ministry

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, December 11

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. – Bell Ringing @ Safeway

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, December 12

10 a.m. – Worship

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

DECEMBER 5, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Prepare the way of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Wednesday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Thursday	Proverbs 24:13-14	Seek wisdom
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah's prophesy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Luke 3:4 (NRSV)]

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may we join with John the Baptist to prepare your way into the world that all may know hope, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation you bring. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this meal and your tender mercies that bless us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bless you with hope for each new day.

DECEMBER 5, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus*



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 are expecting company in your home, how do you prepare for their visit?
- How does preparing for the coming of Christ reflect your hope for the future?

DEVOTIONS 

Read: Luke 3:1-6.

Baptism by John the Baptist was not the same as that of Jesus. Jesus' baptism brings the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). It is our Christian baptism that gives birth to a life of faith and salvation. John's baptism does reveal something about our life in Christ through baptism: daily renewal through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Christian baptism begins a way of life of daily renewal in grace, free to confess shortcomings and free to receive forgiveness, new life, and new opportunities to love one's neighbor. John prepares the way of Jesus into the world, and so do we with our daily return to our baptism. Our faith, born by the Spirit, gives hope not only to us, but to the whole world because in our relationships with others, we speak of repentance, forgiveness, and salvation for all.

Discuss: How do you share this faith with others?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, renew us in faith each day that we may prepare for your coming into our lives so that all may live in hope through the power of forgiveness. Amen.

SERVICE 

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share the hope of Jesus' coming through your actions or words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

This is the second Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles on the Advent wreath. **Soy:** We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, and the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, naming where Jesus will be born. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with confidence and with hope for all the world. **Pray:** Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, and hope in your promise to return and make all things new through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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