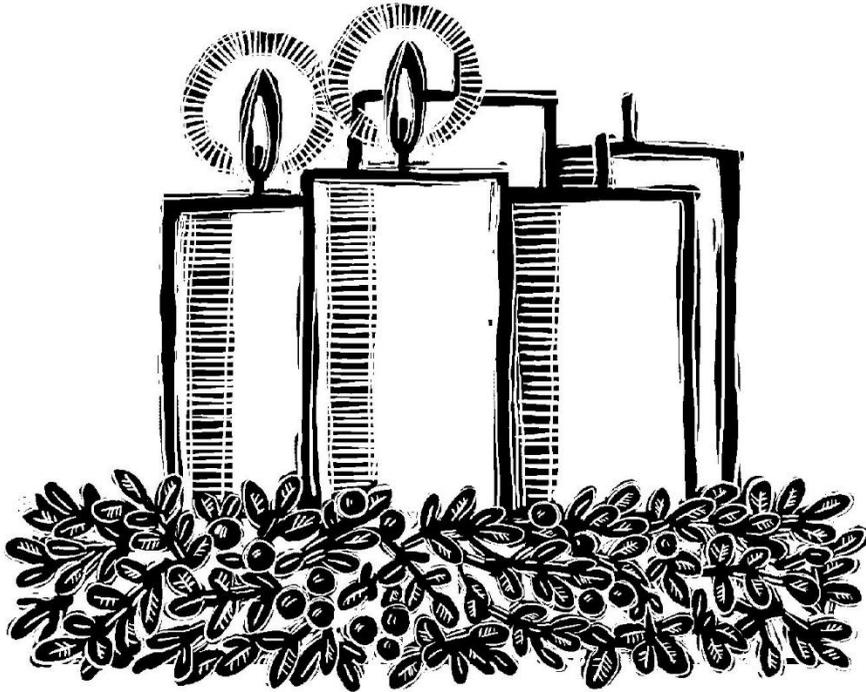


Second Sunday in Advent



"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 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer Before Worship: Lord, how we love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower us to be messengers of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as we seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places we encounter. In Jesus' name 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 = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

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

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Candle Lighting Litany

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

May these candles be a sign of the coming light of Christ.

(Two Candles are lit.)

O people of hope, come,

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

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/Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, ✝ comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Greeting**

Christ comes to lighten our darkness.

Come, Lord, Jesus.

May the light of God’s glory be with you always.

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

O God of power and might,

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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: Mark 1:1-8**

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

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ELW #254

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

***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:**

Tune: "What Child is This"

(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.

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. 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

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

Distribution of Communion:

For those interested in receiving Holy Communion, please meet the communion servers in the parking lot for Drive-Through Communion immediately following the worship service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world’s needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ‡ now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**ELW #275
vv. 1&4**

**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.**

**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.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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LuVerne Knoedler, 12/6; Donna Judd, 12/6;
Val Rahrs, 12/6; Linda Hauschild, 12/12

†In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Tracy, Nancy and Bill Steele** (COVID-19 recovery), **Julius Diers** (hospitalized—grandfather of Nannie Walsh), **Ardella Miller** (COVID-19 recovery—Lonnie Miller’s mother), **Greg & Judy Hinze** (COVID-19 recovery—Grant Hinze’s parents), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller’s uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh’s sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Amber** (fighting COVID-19), **Myron Loseke, Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall’s cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer’s sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Dorothy High, Linda Halley** (sister-in-law of Kent & Pam Halley), **Wilma Buchhammer** (mother of Mark Buchhammer).

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: *in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!*

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.



YOUR GIVING ONLINE

GIVE+Mobile

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church 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.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

Our mission project for December is our **Angel Tree**. We are encouraging people to participate in the Angel Tree project by taking a name & purchasing gifts or making monetary donations to help make sure gifts are purchased for all the names on the Angel Tree. See Tidings for more detailed information.



Items always needed for the kitchen:

SOS pads, scratchies, dish rags, comet, dish soap, paper towels, foil, saran wrap, zip lock baggies (quart & gallon), napkins, instant Country Time lemonade, creamer, artificial sweetener.

Items may be left in the kitchen.

BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 12th from 9 am through 7 pm**. Masks are required. If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.



Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!

Due to COVID-19 concerns JAM has been suspended until further notice.



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.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Disaster Response



Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100% of what you donate will go for disaster response!



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent Financial

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hundreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community.

For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or talk to your Thrivent agent.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – December 6

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne

MEDIA: Colter Burkey

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,
Tracy Steele

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Next Sunday – December 13

USHERS: Deb Brown, Jack Martin

LAY READER: LaDonna Schmidt

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Carmen
Kleager, Shelly Koehler, Jessica Laughlin

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Becky Martin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 6

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

Monday, December 7

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Calvary's
Education Wing

Tuesday, December 8

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 9

5:30 p.m. – Social Ministry

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, December 12

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

Sunday, December 13

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

DECEMBER 6, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



God has good news for all people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
Wednesday	Malachi 4:1-6	The great day of the Lord
Thursday	Matthew 3:1-10	The preaching of John the Baptist
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for God's mercy
Saturday	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[T]he voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Mark 1:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you that through your Son, Jesus Christ, love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Amen. (Psalm 85:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, may this gift of food strengthen us to walk in your way of comfort, hope, and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God feed you like a shepherd and keep you safe. (Isaiah 40:11)



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DECEMBER 6, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tall 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:
- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- What events in the news do people consider to be positive news or good news?
- The word gospel means good news. How is the coming of Christ into our world good news for you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:1-8.

The beginning of a book helps set up what the book is about and where the story is going. This is true of the Gospel of Mark as well. Mark 1:1-8 is part of Mark's prologue (vv. 1-13) and was used in ancient writings with this very purpose in mind: to give information that helps people follow the story as it unfolds. Mark's point is that good news ("good tidings" in Isaiah 40:9), the gospel, is beginning to happen through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This good news is linked to John the baptizer who is himself reminiscent of Elijah. When Elijah comes again, God's people will encounter God's promised deliverance (Malachi 4:5). That future time is now present through John and through Jesus. John's message of repentance (v. 4) will be continued by Jesus when he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14). Where do you see the good news of Jesus happening today?

Pray: Merciful God, we thank you for fulfilling your promise of hope and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Good news has a positive effect on people. Isaiah 40 gives prophetic comfort to God's people. What word of comfort or encouragement can you give to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. Place the wise men further away from the set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope and the second one of peace. Pray for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the coming of Jesus. *Say this Bible verse: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.* (Psalm 85:8a)

Pray: Lord, help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Give us peace and hope. Amen.



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

