



First 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 3, 2023

First 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 increase your 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!*

(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.

Prelude Music

**“Prepare the Royal Highway”
“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”**

**ELW #264
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 in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 33: The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

(Light the Candle of Hope)

Candle Lighting Song:

“The Messiah”

vv. 1

**Someone’s shouting from the desert. Someone’s shouting from the sea.
Someone’s shouting from the mountain. Someone’s shouting from the valley.**

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

Welcome Song:

“The King of Glory”

W&P #136

*Refrain: The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.*

**1. Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. *Refrain***

**2. In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people, curing their illness. *Refrain***

**3. Sing then of David’s Son, our Savior and brother;
in all of Galilee was never another. *Refrain***

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

Song of Praise:

“Emmanuel”

W&P #36

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

***Greeting**

The grace of our risen 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. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

†GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US†

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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 up on the cherubim.

²**In 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.

⁴**O 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.

⁶**You 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.

¹⁷**Let 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 up on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind —

⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:** **“Open our eyes, Lord”** **W&P #113**

**Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

***Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

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

²⁴But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Kid's Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"My Lord, What a Morning"

ELW #438

Refrain: **My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**1. You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**2. You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**3. You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

***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.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

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

"Emmanuel, God With Us"

Choir

***Offertory Prayer**

God our provider,
by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus 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 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

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.)

1. Each winter as the year grows older,
we each grow older, too.
The chill sets in a little colder;
the verities we knew
seem shaken and untrue.
2. When race and class cry out for treason,
when sirens call for war,
they overshout the voice of reason
and scream till we ignore
all we held dear before.
3. Yet I believe beyond believing
that life can spring from death,
that growth can flower from our grieving,
that we can catch our breath
and turn transfixed by faith.
4. So even as the sun is turning
to journey to the north,
the living flame, in secret burning,
can kindle on the earth
and bring God's love to birth.
5. O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Prince of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again;
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ‡ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW #439

**1. Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King**

**2. No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King**

**3. No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King**

**4. Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **David Stevens** (recovering), **Becky Martin** (recovering), **Fran Johnson** (recovering from surgery), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens’ nephew’s wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer**, **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs’ mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Elnora Sell**, **Donna Hackman** and **Darrel Schafer** (Father of Randy Schafer).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LuVerne Knoedler, 12/6; Donna Judd, 12/6;
Val Rahrs, 12/6; Angela Bonow, 12/9

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.



CLCW DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is up! Paper ornaments are on the tree with first name, age, and gift idea. The names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center. **Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th.** 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 (chicken noodle casserole/bread/dessert) 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 at the church.

BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 9th from 9 am through 6 pm**. If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.



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, 2023.



**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.



WNCC's Very Valley Christmas is happening Dec. 9th @ 7:30pm and Dec.10th @ 2pm. Admission is FREE! A collaboration between WNCC's performing arts programs (Instrumental Music, Vocal Music and Theatre Arts) invites you to share in the joy of the season as we kick off the holiday season!

WORSHIP LEADERS

PMA Bill Huelle

This Sunday – December 3

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Marissa Wright

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell

COMMUNION ASSTS: Deb Brown & Marlene Downer

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

ACOLYTES: Merrick Walsh & DaKota Newsom

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Tracy Steele, Vicki Howell, Shari Copsey

PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – December 10

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Mary Jo Huelle

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTES: Ayden Tompkins & Rhyan Buckley

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 3

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, December 4

6:30 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Calvary's

Tuesday, December 5

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, December 6

5:15 p.m. – Outreach

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7p.m. – Choir Practice

Thursday, December 7

11:30 a.m. – Exec. Comm.

Saturday, December 9

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

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, December 10

10 a.m. – Worship/JAM Christmas Program

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

DECEMBER 3, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | Mark 13:24-37 | When the Son of Man appears |
| Monday | Isaiah 64:1-9 | A communal prayer for help |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | God is faithful |
| Wednesday | 1 Peter 1:13-16 | A call to holy living |
| Thursday | Psalms 147:7-11 | Praise for God's care |
| Friday | 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 | The Thessalonians' faith |
| Saturday | Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 | Prayer for Israel's restoration |
| Sunday | Mark 1:1-8 | The beginning of the good news |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of awesome power, give us hearts filled with hope and gladness as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for food and drink that gives us strength for the day and hope for the future through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you with hope through Christ Jesus.



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

DECEMBER 3, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come Now, O Prince of Peace



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:

- As you look to the future, what are some of your hopes?
- God came to us in the form of baby Jesus. How did this bring us hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent is a season of hope, that is, waiting and longing for what is not yet present. It is more than a season; it is a way of life for God's people. This is dramatically seen in Isaiah 64. We want the sense of awe to witness the presence of God that descends from the heavens above. It is as grand as mountains quaking and nations trembling. The divide is vast that separates us from the righteousness and power of God because of our brokenness, our sin. Our hope is not in our goodness but in the everlasting love of God who remembers us like a parent caring for a child. In Jesus we see our hope in God realized. As our God descends in the form of a babe, we hope and believe God has not forgotten us or left us to our own self-destructive ways. We are left in awe at the love and goodness of God that we not only see in Bethlehem, but also at the end of time when we witness *"the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory"* (Mark 13:26). Hope with a sense of awe is healthy for daily life and for our faith in God in Christ.

Discuss: What do you hope for during this Advent season as we await Christ's coming?
Pray: Almighty God, your glory is seen in all that you do; give us eyes to see the hope we are given through the coming of Jesus as a baby and as the Son of Man at the end of time. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone to live with hope in the future?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Make an Advent wreath and decorate it with evergreens. Place four candles on the wreath. Place the wreath on a counter or table where you can gather each week during Advent to light the candles. The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week, we light one candle, the candle of hope. Think or talk about what hope you imagine when you read Psalm 80:3: *"Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved."* Light the first candle of hope and say: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5)



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