



*“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”*

## **Calvary Lutheran Church**

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023

[www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

## **Easter Vigil**

**5:30 p.m.**

**April 3, 2021**

**Prayer Before Worship:** God of patient love, you await the return of the wayward and wandering and eagerly embrace them in pardon. Through baptism you have clothed us with the glory of Christ and restored our inheritance; give us generous hearts to welcome all who seek a place at the table of your unconditional love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**\*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, we are especially glad to have you worshiping with us tonight.*

## **Prelude Music/Gathering**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **†Lighting of the Paschal Candle†**

*The congregation stands.*

*Those on the center aisle, please light your individual candle from the Paschal Candle (symbolizing Christ) as it processes past you and then pass the light of Christ to those in your pew.*

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.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

**O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Pastor bearing the Paschal Candle pauses three times saying:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Pastor greets the people saying:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Holy God, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The individual candles are extinguished as the congregation is seated.*

## ✠Liturgy of the Word✠

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

### **The Story of Creation**

**Psalm 104:1-6, 12-14, 19, 23-24**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

<sup>2</sup>wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

<sup>3</sup>you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

<sup>4</sup>you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

<sup>5</sup>You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

<sup>6</sup>You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>12</sup>By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup>From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

<sup>14</sup>You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,

<sup>19</sup>You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

<sup>23</sup>People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

<sup>24</sup>O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Let us pray...

**O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea**

**Exodus 14:10-11, 13-16, 19-30a, 15:20-21**

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?" <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.<sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." <sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; <sup>15:20</sup>Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Let us pray.

**O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **A New Heart and a New Spirit**

**Ezekiel 36:24-28**

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Let us pray.

**O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Valley of the Dry Bones**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **†The Renewal of Baptismal Vows†**

Having heard the story of salvation and the promise of new life, I ask you to renew your commitment to Jesus Christ, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The candles at the Altar may now be lit from the Paschal Candle.*

Let us pray.

**O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ — whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

John 20:1-18

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

<sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation)

**+WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD+**

**Hymn:**

**"The Day of Resurrection!"**

**ELW #361  
vv. 1 & 3**

**1 The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.**

**3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
let earth its song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph  
and all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
their notes of gladness blend;  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end!**

### **\*Prayers of the People**

On this most holy night, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give.

**Amen.**

Holy God, we pray for your holy catholic Church

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, pastors, and church workers;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others especially....And those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.....Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayers.**

On this most holy night, O God of resurrection, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **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)*

### **\*Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **‡The Lord's Supper‡**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

### **\*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. For this is the feast of victory for all God's people!

#### **Distribution of Communion:**

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**All are invited to participate in the Lord's meal.**

*(Communion will be served in a semi-circle at the front of the church. WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE wafers are available. Just ask the server. Children and others who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

### **\*Blessing and Prayer after Communion**

Mighty and compassionate God, you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed us with the food of life in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **‡WE DEPART TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE‡**

### **\*Benediction**

The God of life, who raised Jesus from the bonds of death, who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth, be merciful to you and ‡ bless you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **\*Hymn:**

**“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

**ELW #365  
vv. 1-3**

- 1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in joy and peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Postlude**

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## ‡In Our Thoughts and Prayers‡

*Prayers for healing:* **Chris & Molly Peterson** (COVID—Wes & Elnora Sell's grandson & wife), **John Rahrs** (heart surgery—Val Rahrs' dad), **Barb Gorr** (recovering from back surgery), **Syl Holdt** (recovering from knee surgery), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Ron Wegelin** (health issues), **Shirlie Schuldies** (health issues-mainly her heart), **Caleb Payne** (health issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Laynette Van Anne** (brain tumor—friend of Dee Brady), **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **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 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 or 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.



Lynn Margheim, 4/4; Bill Thomas, 4/5; Gregg Gingrich, 4/6; Will Voss, 4/6;  
Tanner Blomenkamp, 4/9; Monty Copsey, 4/9; Ruth Harris, 4/9

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](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



## APRIL FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Pancake Mix  
**BACKPACKS:** Mac 'n Cheese Bowls  
Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.  
Thanks for your generosity.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA APRIL MISSION PROJECT:**

We encourage every member of Calvary to participate in our monthly Mission Projects. April's project is the Bake-less Bake Sale. Monetary donations may be dropped off at the church office. Mark CLCW Mission Project on the envelop and leave it with, Christy, the Office Manager. Thank you from the Women's Board.

Calling all 4th-8th graders! We would like to set up an acolyte schedule again, so if you would like to be put on the acolyte schedule call/text Angie at 631-2768.

## 6-week digital course on **faith & money**

- ✓ Increase Savings
- ✓ Eliminate Debt
- ✓ Live generously

Enroll today in a six-week digital course on money and faith. Discover how a grace-filled way of thinking and feeling about money can bring hope and freedom to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and enhance our generosity. Explore money focused on values, agility, options, scarcity, integrity, and giving.

<https://start.sixweeksonmoney.com/courses/ELCA>

## **Lutheran Family Service Telehealth Mental Health Services Now Available Here at Calvary**

2020 has been a stressful year. If you have found the disruption of the holidays the last straw in your ability to cope there is help available through Lutheran Family Services. LFS (Lutheran Family Services) has partnered with several remote sites to provide counseling and other needs through computer teleconferencing (or Telehealth).

If you would like to take advantage of these services, specifically talking with an LFS counselor, come to Calvary and we can help connect you to a counselor! Or go online at [www.LFSneb.org](http://www.LFSneb.org). (You can also call LFS directly at 402-441-7940 or 1-833-903-2376.) Be prepared to spend about 15 to 30 minutes doing online paperwork, including your insurance information. Counseling fees will be handled directly through LFS, there is no fee for use of the computer here at Calvary, (it was provided by LFS) or for the use of the private space.

If life has you down, know there is someone to talk to and help you work through any of life's struggles including depression, relationship issues, parenting difficulties, abuse, as well as getting through this pandemic. Starting the process is available anytime on your home computer and scheduling an appt. with a counselor is very flexible on any computer with camera and internet capabilities. If you would like to use the computer here at Calvary or begin the process with assistance through the office, please come Monday through Thursday from 9-3 PM. (Not available Friday or Weekends.) You may also contact us for more information.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

**This Sunday – April 4**

**USHERS:** Dennis & Barb Gorr

**LAY READER:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**POWERPOINT:** Mary Jo Huelle

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**SONG LEADER:** Jack Martin

**Next Sunday – April 11**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Chris Jensen

**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr

**POWERPOINT:** Jack Martin

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

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

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, April 4**

***Easter Sunday***

10 a.m. – Worship

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

**Monday, April 5**

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Calvary's Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, April 6**

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

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

7:30 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

**Wednesday, April 7**

10 a.m. – Ruth Circle

5:45 p.m. – Social Ministry

6 p.m. – JAM

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, April 10**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, April 11**

10 a.m. – Worship

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

APRIL 3, 2021  
EASTER VIGIL



*God's creative work.*

**EASTER VIGIL BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Easter Vigil observance.

**Saturday**    **Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

**Creation story**

**Exodus 14:10-31**

**Exodus from Egypt**

**Isaiah 55:1-11**

**A hymn of triumph**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**The valley of dry bones**

**Romans 6:3-11**

**Alive In Christ**

**Psaln 114**

**The Lord works wonders**

**Mark 16:1-8**

**The tomb is empty**

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL**

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*  
**Genesis 1:31 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for Easter Vigil:**

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you love what you have created and through Jesus, our Lord, you promise us the new creation of resurrection life for us to live, now and always. Amen. Alleluia.

**Meatime Prayer:**

Dear God, for your work of creation that freely gives us food and drink, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:1)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, give you newness of life. (Romans 6:4)



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APRIL 3, 2021  
HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL  
*Oh, Sing to God Above*



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**EASTER VIGIL MILESTONES**

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you think is really beautiful?
- What does it mean to you that what God creates is both good and beautiful?
- The theme of the Easter Vigil is God's creative work. Why is it important to know that Jesus' resurrection is part of a whole new creation?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Genesis 1:1—2:4a.

This creation story is filled with hope and joy. When God creates and sees that it is "good," the good noted there is not just a moral good. It is a "well done," even "beautiful" good. That is how the creation story begins. We know that sin still enters in and destroys much of the joy, although God never lets go of the hope for something better. That something better is the new creation brought about through the resurrection of Jesus. The Apostle Paul describes that "something better" through our baptism as a way to join Jesus in his death and his resurrection that "we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Our God is the Creator God who promises and creates something new, more glorious, and permanent through Christ's victory over sin, death, and evil. God never lets go of creation. With Easter we give thanks that God promises a new creation, a new life that knows no end. Alleluia. How do you find hope and joy in the creation story?  
*Pray:* Creator God, you have given us newness of life through the resurrection of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. We give thanks for your goodness and mercy. Amen.

**SERVICE**

God loves what God creates and it is created good and beautiful. How does that influence how you treat God's creation today? What could you do this week that shows your appreciation for God's creation?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The Easter Vigil is about the newness of life in Jesus. At our baptism we are given new life. The gift of baptism continues daily throughout our life. Light a candle and read Romans 6:3-11. Reflect on the reading for a moment and then tell stories about your own baptism or that of another. Think about ways you can remember your baptism daily.



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

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)