



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday *in* Lent

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

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Saturday Evening Worship - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.**  
**February 24 & 25, 2024**

## Second Sunday in Lent

**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.

*(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.

**Prayer Before Worship:** God of our salvation, your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant with every living creature. Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth, that by your Holy Spirit, we may remember our baptismal vows and be bearers of your good news to all the world. Amen.

**Prelude Music (Sun)**

**“Knowing You”  
“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”**

**BOB #138  
ELW #334**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

**Welcome Song:**

**“How Firm a Foundation”**

**ELW #796**

- 1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**
- 2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**
- 3. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**

4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

**\*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 writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is an abundance of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise**

**"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

**ELW #335  
vv. 2**

**2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me.**

*Refrain:* **In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.**

### **\*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**

O God,

**by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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‡**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### **Epistle Reading: Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Lenten Verse:**

**“Return to the Lord”**

**Jay Beech**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
Who is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**\*Gospel: Mark 8:31-38**

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

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

**Kid's Sermon (Sun):**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Kathy**

*(Silence for reflection and meditation)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

**ELW #802**

**1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.**

**Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.**

**2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.**

**Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.**

**3. Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.**

**Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.**

**4. Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members;**

where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly,  
living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
life eternal grant to me.

**\*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 (Sat):**

*Each petition ends with:*

Hear us, O God...**your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

...Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**



**\*Prayers of the Church (Sun):**

**W&P #27**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**I cast all my cares upon you;  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

**\*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)*

**"Come Now and Follow Me" (Sun)**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Jesus,

**you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

**†HOLY COMMUNION†**

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

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### **\*Words of Institution**

Holy God,

You alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

### **\*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**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

## **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.*

*APPLE 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 (Sun): "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

**ELW #803**

## **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

## **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

## **\*Benediction**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

**"Step by Step"**

**W&P #132**

**O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days**

**O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
O God You are my God  
And I will ever praise You**

**I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days**

**And I will follow You all of my days  
And I will follow You all of my days  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Copyright Permissions:** Liturgy: Sundays and Seasons v.20230905.1004 Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Annual License #SAS103411.

**Music: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery:** Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Text © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission., OneLicense.net #A-705226; **How Firm a Foundation:** Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. ©Public Domain; **Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross:** Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 © *Public Domain*; **Return to the Lord.** Text: Joel 2:13. Music: Jay Beech. b. 1960. © Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net #A-705226; **Return to the Lord (Jay Beech)**, CCLI License #1825044; **Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus:** Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net #A-705226; **Cares Chorus:** CCLI Song # 25974 Kelly Willard © 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1825044; **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross:** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 ©Public Domain; **Step by Step:** Text and music © 1991 Kid Brothers of St. Frank Publishing, admin. Reunion Music Group and BMG Songs, Inc. CCLI License #1825044

## **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

**Prayers for healing:** **Jack Martin** (gallbladder surgery), **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Mary Jo Huelle** (recovering from surgery), **Drew Selck** (Cancer), **LuVerne Knoedler** (recovering from surgery), **Ruth Harris** (recovery from a fall), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer— Larry Gibbs' brother), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

**Prayers for comfort and peace for:** Family and friends **Tamara Taylor** (Fran Johson & Barb Tallmon's niece).

**Prayers for comfort and safety:** **Zeke Chilcott** (deployed—friend of Marissa Wright), **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shirlie Schuldies, 2/28; Carol Bosshardt, 3/24; Brad Johnston, 3/3

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 **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



## FEBRUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Canned Meat

**BACKPACKS:** Granola Bars

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## **CLCW FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT:**

### **Bake-less Bake Sale**

Instead of spending the money to make baked items and asking people to purchase them, the women are asking for cash donations in the amount that you might normally spend to make or buy items at a bake sale. Money raised goes to our mission projects for the world, our nation, and our local community. Donations may be placed in the tan "*Designated Giving*" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.





## NO JAM THROUGH LENT!

Instead, we invite all JAM youth and their families to join us for our Lenten dinners (5:30p.m. – 6:15p.m.) and Worship Services (6:30p.m.)

The Parish Ed Committee is considering forming a fellowship aimed at "young adults." We would like the congregations' feedback to determine interest.

Please check out our Facebook page to take our survey. If you have any questions, please contact a committee member.



### Coffee and Fellowship

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.



**February 28<sup>th</sup>**, the meal is @ 5:30 pm with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm. This week is Pizza Casserole sponsored by the Choir.



The Five Solas are the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. These are five central truths that came out of the Reformation – 1 Scripture Alone, 2 Christ Alone, 3 Faith Alone, 4 Grace Alone and 5 Glory of God Alone. Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings.

## 2024 LENTEN LUNCHES

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent.

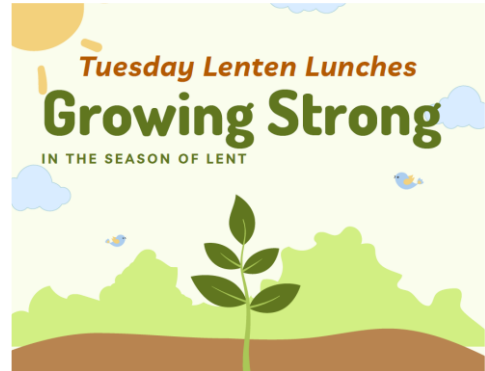
### SCHEDULE

**February 27** - First United Methodist Church  
2002 4th Ave., Scottsbluff

**March 5** – Calvary Lutheran Church  
17 E. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff

**March 12** - Westway Christian Church  
1701 W. 27th St., Scottsbluff

**March 19** - St. Francis Episcopal Church  
14 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff



### **First Communion Class**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall**

Parents: Do you have a child who is not yet receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion and is interested in doing so? At Calvary, there is no specific age at which a child may begin receiving Communion; it is at the parent's discretion. However, if we understand that in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we receive the gift of Christ's forgiveness and promise of his presence and love, then it is never too early to begin receiving communion. If interested, please let Christy know so we know how many to plan for. First Communion will take place on Easter Sunday!

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor Kathy**

**This Sunday – February 25**

**USHERS:** Deb Brown & Vicki Howell

**LAY READER:** Chris Jensen

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn  
Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ACOLYTES:** Kippen & Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

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

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP** *Please sign up!*

**Lenten Wednesday – February 28**

**LAY READER:** Chris Jensen

**ACOLYTE:** Merrick Walsh

**AUDIO:** *Please sign up!*

**Next Sunday – March 3**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Deb Brown &  
Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Jack & Max Judy

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler,  
Allisha Weitzel

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, February 25**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, February 26**

5 p.m. – Parish Ed

**Tuesday, February 27**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, February 28**

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, March 2**

10 a.m. – Cluster Assembly @ Calvary

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, March 3**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship



FEBRUARY 25, 2024  
SECOND SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*From despair to praise, God is with us.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Psalms 63	Comfort in God's power
Friday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	God will make God's people clean
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*From you [God] comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. Psalm 22:25-26a (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Eternal God, we thank you for bringing us into your kingdom that is like no other, a power and realm filled with love and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food, a gift of love that gives us strength to praise you for your faithfulness to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May your life in Christ give you hope.



© 2023 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

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

FEBRUARY 25, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Come, All You People*



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

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

- Think or tell about a time you or someone you know felt rejected or in despair.
- Do you believe that God can help us overcome pain? Explain.

**DEVOTIONS**

**Read:** Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38.  
Psalm 22 begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1). The psalmist, in verses 23-31, then utters praise with a new understanding of his/her life and identity in the presence of God. Jesus calls us to give up any self-identity that is not grounded in God through Jesus when he says, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34b). Psalm 22 expresses a similar point. We, ourselves, are not defined by our hurts, suffering, or disappointments, but by God. There is a move from despair to praise after recognizing that God has not left the psalmist (or us) in pain. What defines us is the God who delivers us and frees us through Christ. In Psalm 22, God's power and glory reaches the ends of the earth, even the dead and those unborn (vv. 29-31). Like the psalmist in Psalm 22, Peter in Mark 8:33 experiences rejection, but we know that one day he will join in the praise expressed at the end of this psalm. A life of praise to God and God's ways will change Peter just as it changed the psalmist and just as it changes us.  
**Discuss:** How does God's power lead us from rejection to praise?  
**Pray:** Life-changing God, help us to see your glory at work in the world and to trust that in Jesus Christ your Kingdom has come to put an end to all evil and suffering. 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 help someone who is going through a difficult time?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Light two candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

**Then pray:** Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.



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)