

"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.
January 2, 2021

Epiphany of Our Lord

Prayer Before Worship: God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

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

KEY: ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

A Warm Welcome to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us in person or online today,
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

Prelude Music

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

ELW #294

"The Bells of Christmas"

ELW #298

Welcome and Announcements

✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

***Confession of Sins and Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.

God of grace and truth,

In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, hear and believe the good news that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Song of Praise:

“All Hail King Jesus”

W&P #3

**All hail King Jesus!
All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;
and I'll reign with you throughout eternity.**

***Greeting**

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,

you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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: Matthew 2:1-12**

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Bill Huelle, PMA

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

“Christ, Be Our Light”

**ELW #715
vv. 1,2&5**

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *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:**

ELW #751

(Sung Prayer Response)

**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.**

***Exchange of Peace**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.**

***Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

WOV #646

**1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain: **Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**2. Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav’n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

Praise Team

Postlude

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✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **Jan Wylie, Juanita Gibbs, Mary Jo Huelle, Jean Collins** (hip replacement surgery), **Kathy Pickett** (cancer—Virginia Pickett’s niece), **Jan Van Newkirk** (back surgery), **Kathy Johnson** (back issues), **Maeve Singer** (medical issues—Nick & Lindsey Singer’s 6 month old daughter), **Alice Braaten** (rehab), **Kathy Rahrs** (recovering from back surgery—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson’s cousin’s husband), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker’s great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers of comfort and peace: For the family and friends of **Sharon Kaufman** (Steve Kaufman’s sister-in-law)

Prayers for: those dealing with the grief & destruction caused by the December tornadoes, **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker’s granddaughter & husband).



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)



No Birthdays this week!

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.



JANUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Cereal

BACKPACKS: 16oz Peanut butter

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



Fighting Malaria



WOMEN OF THE ELCA JANUARY MISSION PROJECT:

The WELCA mission project for January will be the ELCA Malaria Campaign. \$10 can purchase a treated mosquito net, \$50 provides medicine for 25 people, and \$100 trains a village health team. Donations

may be made. Be sure to designate WELCA on the envelope.

Endowment Fund application forms are due. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local.



Coffee and Fellowship



Coffee and fellowship started back up. We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.

OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

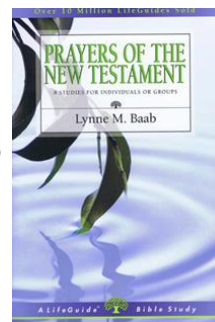
Wednesday, January 5th @ noon

Pastor Chris will be making Aebleskivers (Danish pancakes). We will be playing The Hygge Game (also Danish)! Come join for some Danish fun!



NEW Tuesday Evening Study starting January 11th Prayers of the New Testament

Join us as we explore eight different prayers contained in the New Testament. Author Lynne Baab writes *"I wrote this study guide because the prayers in the Bible have shaped and nurtured my own prayer life so profoundly."* Join Pastors Sheryl and Chris as we study eight different prayers in the New Testament. We'll begin by looking at the prayers of Mary and Simeon and Anna, then explore three of Jesus' prayers followed by prayers spoken by Peter and Paul and then ending our study with a prayer from the Book of Revelation. The language of these prayers is beautiful and deep, speaking to us of God's character and plan for all the world; but also helpful in deepening our own prayer life. Everyone is welcome.



This 8-week study will meet at 7 p.m. starting January 11th.

If interested, please sign up on the sheet outside the office so we can make sure to have enough study books.

EPIC on Sunday, January 9th

Bible Study & Game Night at Hinze's! Come for Bible study, games & dinner from 4-6 p.m.! Please come and join us all 7th-12th graders!



JAM will resume January 12th!

JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (sandwiches/chips) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.



Laundry Love

Calvary is partnering with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in our community. Calvary will host Laundry Love every 3rd month starting on Jan 15th. In preparation for that day, we will need quarters as well as dryer sheets or softener. Laundry detergent has already been donated. So, save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's offices.



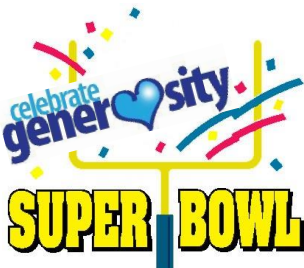
Sound System Operator Needed!!

We are in need of 1 or 2 people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested, please talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or Jim Dorn.



Celebrate Generosity returns January.

On January 23rd, the FOURTH Sunday in January, we will gather to celebrate generosity. As in our previous gatherings we encourage ALL ages to gather at 9 AM on the 23rd.



Come learn about the Generosity Super Bowl in the New Testament. There will be a cheer and a lineup! (Okay the lineup isn't quite what you might expect, but let your curiosity bring you to check it out.) See you on the 23rd, again that's the 4th Sunday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – January 2

PMA: Bill Huelle

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: LaDonna Schmidt

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTE: Katie Hess

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jack Martin

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

PIANIST: Dee Brady

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Shari Copsey

Next Sunday – January 9

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

POWERPOINT: Jack Martin

ACOLYTE: Clare Schlothauer

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

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

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Please Sign
Up!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 2

10 a.m. – Worship

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

Tuesday, January 4

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, January 5

12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Thursday, January 6

Epiphany

Saturday, January 8

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, January 9

10 a.m. – Worship

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

4-6 p.m. – EPIC @ Hinze's

JANUARY 2, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS



God lives among us with grace and truth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Israel will return to its own land
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:8-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Zachariah 8:14-17	God's promises to Zion
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, our hearts sing with gladness for your grace and truth that blesses us each day through Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lives among us now. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of this food, a reminder of your care for us each and every day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you every day and in every way. (Ephesians 1:3)



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

JANUARY 2, 2022
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Silent Night, Holy Night!



WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- Talk or think about the people that support you in your daily life.
- Who has mentored you in the Christian faith? How has that person mentored you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 11:1-18.

As beautiful as the birth story in Luke is, there is something very powerful about John's account. It is the message of Jesus' entry into our world and lives that is not connected with specific moments. John's account has a timeless and cosmic quality to it that captures the imagination. Not everything about us is marked in time and in a location like Bethlehem. It might be the death of a loved one or an enduring crisis. During such moments, what we need most is God's grace that accepts us, God's light that shatters darkness, and God's truth that heals relationships. What we need to know is that God's Word has entered our lives and world [become flesh] and lives among us now, during our highs and lows and everything in between. This light, grace, and truth stands with us in Christ Jesus, not just as individuals, but as God's whole people.

Pray: Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope, peace, and compassion for others through Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share God's grace with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the twelve days of Christmas, we remember that St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He was devoted to the Christ child. During these twelve days, we remember the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you have a nativity scene set up in your house, consider leaving it out until Epiphany on January 6. Place the white Christ candle (from the Advent wreath) near the scene. Light the candle and take a moment to meditate on the birth of Jesus.

Pray: Lord Jesus, you are the light that shines on everyone. Help us to shine your light on others that they may know of your glory. Amen.



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