



ARISE,
SHINE;
FOR YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME,
AND THE GLORY
OF THE LORD
HAS RISEN
UPON YOU.

ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

"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 3, 2021

Epiphany of Our Lord

Prayer Before Worship: O God of light and peace, whose glory shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls, and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen.

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

KEY: ELW = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

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

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

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

†**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**†

Welcome Song: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW #282
vv. 1&3

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

3. **And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!**

***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, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Light that shines in the darkness. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of light and peace,

We confess that we have shunned your light that reveals the truth about us. We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth. We trust ourselves above all. Save your people, O God; sustain the rivers and trees that sing your praise; and free us to live boldly in the light and truth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy. **Amen.**

***Greeting**

Christ comes to lighten our darkness.

Come, Lord, Jesus.

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

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray,

God of light and peace, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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: 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: 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.

**⁴Let 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.

**⁶Let 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.

**¹⁰May 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.

**¹²For 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.

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

Epistle 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.

Sermon:

Pastor Sheryl

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"Christ, Be Our Light"

**ELW #715
vv. 1&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.**

- 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:**

Tune: "What Child is This"

(Sung Prayer Response)

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

***Exchange of Peace**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

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

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing to others. With the shepherds, wise men and angels, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever, and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

Distribution of Communion:

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

Distribution Song:

"The First Noel"

ELW #300

**1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

4. This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds and wise men, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ‡ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**WOV #646
vv. 1&2**

**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**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. The star of Bethlehem guiding you.
Thanks be to God.

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Natalie Laughlin, 1/9; Barrett Samuelson, 1/9; Makenzie Todd, 1/9

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests



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

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Scan the QR code to the right, go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



‡In Our Thoughts and Prayers‡

Prayers for healing: **Bonnie** (pneumonia & fluid around her heart—cousin of Susan Martin), **Beth Janecek** (Treatment), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Gary Eskam** (pneumonia - non COVID related), **Tracy, Nancy and Bill Steele** (COVID-19 recovery), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Myron Loseke, Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Joann Pullen** (friend of Elnora Sell), **Rachel Sabala** (friend of Gail Bruflat), **Ardella Miller** (Lonnie Miller's mother), **Julius Diers** (grandfather of Nannie Walsh & great grandpa of Rayce & Merrick Walsh)

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

JANUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: cereal
BACKPACKS: 16 oz jars of 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.



Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!
Due to COVID-19 concerns JAM has been suspended until further notice.

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. (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.

Please see the January Newsletter for more information!



6 Weeks on Money-a digital course for ELCA congregations, individuals and families

Many people suffer post-Christmas guilt realizing they spent more than they should have and come January trying to figure out how to pay for it. The ELCA invites you to participate in a new six-week digital course on money and faith to help you learn how to avoid the cycle of financial strain and the rollercoaster ride when it comes to finances. Discover how a grace-filled way of thinking and feeling about money can bring hope and freedom to strengthen your relationship with Jesus and enhance your generosity.

If interested, please talk to Pastor Chris ASAP!

Please see the January Newsletter for more information!



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



Lutheran Disaster Response

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



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Thrivent Financial

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

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



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – January 3

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen

LAY READER: Kathy Randall

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne

MEDIA: Colter Burkey

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Next Sunday – January 10

USHERS: Deb Brown & Jack Martin

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

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: Wally Randall

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 3

10 a.m. – Worship

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

Tuesday, January 5

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

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

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

7:30 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

Wednesday, January 6

10 a.m. – Ruth Circle

11:30 a.m. – Exec. Com

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Thursday, January 7

Annual Reports Due

Sunday, January 10

10 a.m. – Worship

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

JANUARY 3, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS



Jesus enters our world full of 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	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Thursday	Colossians 1:15-23	The person and work of Christ
Friday	Genesis 1:1-4	God creates light
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	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:

Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for blessing us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Amen. (Ephesians 1:3)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who give us food to eat and Jesus to meet, thank you for your abundant love that comes to us from above. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God shine the light of Christ, full of grace and truth, on you now and always.



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JANUARY 3, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Angels from the
Realms of Glory



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:

- What are some of your memories of the Christmas season this past year?
- In what ways can you focus on Jesus' birth during the 12 days of Christmas?
- Is it important to you that Jesus, God the Son, became human? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 1:1-18.

The Gospel of John does not have a birth story like Matthew or Luke. In a sense, this is John's birth story, but instead of talking about Mary, Joseph, and Bethlehem, John speaks about what Jesus' birth means for us: light for the world; the Word of God becomes human in Jesus Christ; through the Word that is Jesus, we are given grace and truth; we are given grace upon grace; all that God intends for us is shown to us through God's only Son, Jesus. John places all of this in the context of the creation story. God speaks and light, sky, dry land, and all of creation happens. In John 1 this speaking God is portrayed as the Word that has now taken on human form in Jesus. Through Jesus the Word now reveals something, God's grace and truth intended for all that God has made. It is a promise of abundance that lavishes God's goodness on earth through Jesus. This Jesus, the Word become flesh, will turn water into wine (John 2:1-11) and later in his ministry state that he brings the abundant life (John 10:10), all of which flows out of John's opening statement about the Word that becomes flesh and is full of grace and truth. How do you experience God's grace and truth in daily life?
Pray: God of grace and truth, we thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word that became human and speaks to us and gives us your abundant love and mercy. Amen.

SERVICE



All the Scripture readings this week speak of God's abundant love showered on God's people. We live in a world where not all people have enough to eat or have adequate shelter. How can you take action steps to be the hands, feet, and voice of God's love to others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During Advent and the Christmas season, we light candles to symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Place a candle as a centerpiece on your dinner table this week. Before each meal, as you light the candle:
Say: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.



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

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