



"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 8, 2023

Epiphany of Our Lord

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

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

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

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Opening Hymn:

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275

- 1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

***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.**

***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.

*Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain.***

**3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain.***

***Prayer of the Day**

O God,

**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‡

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 Verse**

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

***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:

Pastor Brett

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

+WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD+

***Hymn of the Day:**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**WOV #646
vv. 1,2&5**

**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***

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

Each petition ends with:

God of grace...hear **our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

....we pray to the mercy of God. **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)

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

Choir

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray...God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

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

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy.....**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

Distribution of Communion:

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

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.

WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

“Lamb of God”

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Distribution Music

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

God bless you and keep you, ‡ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song:**

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

**ELW #301
vv. 1,3&4**

**1. Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.**

**3. Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.**

**4. Him they found in Bethlehem,
yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly
with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms,
resting in her loving arms.**

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Catherine Rahrs** (blood clots—Val Rahrs' mother), **Bonnie** (hematoma in her leg—Susan Martin's friend), **Neal Blomenkamp**, **Jo Heidingsfelder**, **Joy Arnold** (cancer— friend of Deb Brown), **Marsha Bueide** (stroke), **Marti Wegelin**, **Mary Jane Brown** (stroke—Deb Brown's mother-in-law), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Kevin Feil** (sepsis & cancer—Lindsey Singer & Melissa Guerrero's father), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law), **Mary Jo Haack** (Becky Martin's mother).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson), **B.J. Carr** (deployed to Poland—Dee Brady's son-in-law).



Natalie Laughlin, 1/9; Barrett Samuelson, 1/9;
Makenzie Todd, 1/9; Micaela Hess, 1/10;

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: 16 oz jars of Peanut Butter
Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



Drivers Needed for Ruth Harris

Ruth Harris is in need of a few people to drive her to/from Sunday service from Emerald Court once a month. If interested in volunteering your time, please contact the church office for more information.

JAM will resume January 11th!

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 (pizza/salad/dessert) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie at the church.



Fighting Malaria



CLCW JANUARY MISSION PROJECT: ELCA Malaria Campaign

Malaria is a leading cause of death in Africa. It is preventable, treatable, and perpetuates poverty. Just \$10 can purchase a treated mosquito net, \$50 feeds a refugee family for 1 week, \$20 feeds 10 people at the soup kitchen, and \$100 aids in scholarship support to train an international women's leader. Donations may be made. Be sure to designate CLCW on the envelope.

Endowment Fund application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2022.



laundrylove

Laundry Love

Calvary has partnered 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; our next event is January 21st. 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 office.



TODAY, January 8th

Lunch and Canvas Painting! Come join us after church at 11:30 am for lunch and then we will have a devotion and paint a canvas! After we paint, we can play cards and board games!

Bring a friend!

Please come and join us all 7th-12th graders!



First Communion Class—January 15th

Pastor Brett will be offering a "First Communion Class" on January 15 after our morning worship service. If your children have not been receiving communion but are interested in doing so -- this is for you! We will meet from about 11:00 - 11:30 in the sanctuary after worship. There is no cost and no preparation work, just come and learn as a family.

New Members Class— January 22nd

Pastor Brett will be offering a "New Members Class" on January 22 after our morning worship service. If you have attended Calvary Lutheran for some time and wondered about taking some next steps -- this is for you! We will talk about what makes Calvary a "Lutheran" church, how we function as a congregation, and where we are headed as a congregation. The class is free and there won't be any homework. We would love to have you join us!



Lenten Meals

Lent is fast approaching if you would be interested in providing a Wednesday Lenten meal, please contact the church office or Bill Huelle.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Brett Vander Berg

This Sunday – January 8

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin

COMMUNION ASSTS: Tracy Steele &
Chris Thomas

POWERPOINT: Angela Bonow

ACOLYTES: Merrick Walsh & Ayden
Tompkins

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Val Rahrs

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – January 15

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Chris Jensen

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn
Margheim

POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne

ACOLYTES: Brynlee Payne

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: Trea Hess

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

PIANIST: Dee Brady

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 8

10 a.m. – Worship

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

11:30 a.m. – EPIC Lunch & Canvas
Painting

Monday, January 9

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Vicki
Schmidt's Home

6 p.m. – Council

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Diane
Vandenberg's Home

Annual Reports are Due

Tuesday, January 10

12 p.m. – Women's Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, January 11

5:30 p.m. – Social Ministry

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, January 14

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, January 15

10 a.m. – Worship

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

11 a.m. – First Communion Class

JANUARY 6, 2023
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD



Jesus brings people of different backgrounds together.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Friday	Matthew 2:1-12	The magi worship Jesus
	Isaiah 60:1-6	The glory of God shines on the people
	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Prayer for guidance

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

In 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
Ephesians 3:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

Dear God, through wise men from the East, you reveal your plan to bring all the nations of the world together in Christ. Guide your church to live and teach that message today. Amen.

Meatime Prayer:

God of the nations, we thank you for this food and ask that all people be given enough to eat so that together our lives may flourish through your grace. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the promise of Christ Jesus bless you to live in peace with all people.



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JANUARY 6, 2023
HYMN FOR EPIPHANY
This is My Song



EPIPHANY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- To what teams, schools, or groups do you claim to have a loyalty?
- How can loyalty to only a certain group of people be hurtful to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

Epiphany points to Jesus and God's plan for all the world. That plan is like a mystery that is now revealed through the work of Christ for the world. The mystery is the power of God's grace (undeserved kindness) to bring together diverse people, people as far apart as Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). Paul wrote to the church of this mystery because the people were still divided and opposing one another on the basis of being Jewish or Gentile. The work of the church is to reveal God's plan in Christ, the plan to unite all people under one rule, the merciful rule of God in Christ. In Ephesians we learn that in Christ we are all now "*yellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel*" (v. 6).

Epiphany, therefore, has become a message of repentance for the church. It represents a call to return to the mystery of Christ and refrain from divided loyalties by nation, by race, and by various Christian creeds and practices.

Discuss: How can the church today show acceptance of all people, regardless of nation, ethnicity, gender or race?

Pray: Gracious God, in Christ you have made us one. Give us the will and the power to overcome divisions so that we may point to the mystery of Christ's love for us all. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you help others experience a sense of belonging?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas. Countries around the world have different traditions on this day. From cakes to carols to candles to gifts, it is a time remembered when the wise men visited Jesus. A star led them to Jesus. Tell the story of the wise men's visit in your own words. Then draw or cut out the shape of a star. Write the name of a person in the star who has led you to Jesus. Display it in a visible place in your home as a reminder.

Pray: Dear God, the wise men were led to Jesus. You have placed someone wise in my life. Thank you for [name in star]. I pray that I, too, may point the way for someone in my life to be led to you. Amen.



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