



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

"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 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Prayer Before Worship: Holy God, powerful and wise beyond our understanding, we gather here in the name of your Son who calls us by name and invites us into a relationship with you. May your Holy Spirit come upon us that your Word would take root in our hearts. In Jesus' name 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 = 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✠

*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross ✠ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)

We gather as the baptized people of God in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***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**

Compassionate God,

you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US✠

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

***Gospel Acclamation:**

“Celtic Alleluia”

Epiphany Verse

**A holy day has dawned.
Adore the Lord, you nations,
for today a light
has come on the earth.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

***Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

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

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Kid's Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Sheryl

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

**ELW #612
vv. 1&2**

Refrain: **Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**1. You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

Refrain

**2. In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.**

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:**

(Sung Prayer Response)

W&P #27

**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.**

***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.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.

Come and be fed.

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 one station in the front of the church with the pulpit side of the church being dismissed first.

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.)

For those worshipping with us online who are interested in receiving Holy Communion, Drive-Through Communion will be available in the parking lot immediately following the worship service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

“Evidence of Grace”

Choir

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

May God, who led the magi to Christ by the shining of a star,
Accompany you on your journey this day and always.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:**

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

**ELW #665
vv. 1&3**

**1. Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**

**3. Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus’ glory.**

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Theron Miller, 2/2; Kent Halley, 2/2; Blake Nikont, 2/2; Bill Walsh, 2/2

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

✝In Our Thoughts and Prayers✝

Prayers for healing: **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Gary Eskam** (heart/lung health), **Bonnie** (pneumonia & fluid around her heart—cousin of Susan Martin), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Nancy & Tracy Steele** (COVID-19 health issues), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **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), **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 **David Nikont** (Marj Nikont's nephew).

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

Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, 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.

YOUR GIVING ONLINE

GIVE+Mobile

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.



The CatPack/PupPack Program is looking for someone to deliver the food supplies from Calvary Lutheran Church when needed to either First State Bank in Gering or First Presbyterian Church in Scottsbluff. Please contact the church office if interested! Thank you!

FEBRUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: canned meats

BACKPACKS: granola bars

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



**Fighting
Malaria**



WOMEN OF THE ELCA FEBRUARY 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.



Congregational Annual Meeting

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 31st at 11:15 a.m. Executive Board has decided the meeting will be conducted in person.

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, 2021.



Mark your calendars for February 3 and 10 as we will be having JAM in person! Calling all Kindergartners through Sixth Graders to come to the church from 6pm to 7pm to have some fun. We will not serve dinner in February, but I am hoping we can after Easter! Join us for a story, a game, some music, games, and fellowship! Please wear your masks!

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

Sunday, February 7th, for the



Although we will not be serving a dinner after church like we have in the past, we will have a stock pot in the narthex (or outside the office) for any donations from our congregation. Donations will also be accepted throughout the week of February 1-7. All donations collected will be given to our CatPack/PupPack programs in Scottsbluff and Gering.

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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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 31

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Jack Martin

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

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

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Next Sunday – February 7

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Kathy Randall

COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Val Rahrs

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 31

10 a.m. – Worship

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

11:15 a.m. – Annual Meeting

Monday, February 1

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Calvary Education Wing

Tuesday, February 2

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, February 3

10 a.m. – Ruth Circle

11:30 a.m. – Exec Comm

6 p.m. – JAM

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, February 6

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, February 7

10 a.m. – Worship

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

11:15 a.m. – Installation of Council

**Souper Bowl of Caring*

JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus casts out unclean spirits.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A new prophet like Moses
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Acts 16:16-40	Paul and Silas in prison
Thursday	Exodus 15:22-27	Bitter water made sweet
Friday	1 John 4:1-6	Testing the spirits
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." Mark 1:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, lead us to trust in your reign of justice and mercy that heals the wounded and lifts up the lowly through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, help us to be mindful of your goodness, including this gift of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy One of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, give you faith, hope, and love.



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JANUARY 31, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
God, Whose Almighty Word



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tall 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:

- Think or tell about a time you were jealous.
- How is the feeling of jealousy harmful to you and others?
- What difference does it make that Jesus has power over unclean spirits (like jealousy) in our lives?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:21-28.

In the Gospel of Mark, this is Jesus' first recorded act in public ministry. It sets the direction and tone for Mark, and it is a doozy. In our modern world where data and verifiable research is relied on more than speaking about spirits—unclean or not—the narrative can lead to many understandable questions. However, the conclusion is clear: Jesus speaks and acts with an authority not experienced by the people in the Capernaum synagogue. All the people were amazed. The unclean spirits know who Jesus is, the Holy One of God. In Jesus' kingdom, such knowledge is not enough. He silences the unclean spirits. Jesus will be gathering followers like Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John (vv. 14-20) who will worship, serve, and place their trust in Jesus. He comes with the message and authority of God. Jesus presents the reign of God that breaks down barriers. He brings God's purity and holiness to people and places not reached before. It's the ministry and the message that will not be silenced. Jesus brought life-changing experiences to the people. What life-changing experience have you had?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to witness to and be followers of your reign of love, reconciliation, and healing through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

In 1 Corinthians 8, it was not good enough that people had the right information, even the right understanding of the Christian faith. They needed to act out of love because "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." Think of someone with whom you have differing opinions. Pray that you may be able to see beyond your differences and reach out to the other person with a spirit of love and a listening ear.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2 is the Church festival day for the "presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being "a light to reveal God to the nations." Choose a new candle to light and use this year as part of your devotions.

Then end with this prayer: Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle this year. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.



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