



"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 7, 2024

Baptism 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!*

(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.

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

*Welcome Hymn:

“Shall We Gather at the River”

**ELW #423
vv. 1,3&4**

**1. Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain: **Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.**

**3. Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain***

**4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. Refrain**

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water is poured into the font as the congregation gives thanks)

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be given honor and praise through † Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Canticle of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*Prayer of the Day

Holy God,

creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.

Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Epistle Reading: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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: Mark 1:4-11**

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Kathy

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

*Hymn of the Day:

“Borning Cry”

ELW #732

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
2. "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."
3. "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."
4. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

***Profession of Faith**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

***Affirmation by the Assembly**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

***Prayers of the Church:**

Each petition ends with:

God of grace...**receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with:

...Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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**

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

†HOLY COMMUNION & DISMISSAL†

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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

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.)

Distribution Music

Tahnee Hutchinson

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Post-Communion Prayer

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠

*Benediction

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

ELW #543

1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3. "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

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

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Marsha Bueide** (recovery from surgery), **Ruth Harris** (recovery from a fall), **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens' nephew's wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs' mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **David Stevens** and **Jan Martin** (Susan Martin's relative).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



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.



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, 2024.





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

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 5th grade. We begin with dinner (meatball sandwiches/chips/fruit/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.



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Wednesday, January 10th @ noon

Lunch with Pastor Kathy! Join us at noon for meatball sandwiches/chips/fruit and dessert. We will have some good conversation and "getting to know you" games with Pastor Kathy!



Sunday, January 14th

Pizza and Painting Party! Come join us after church at 11:30 am for lunch and then we will have a devotion and paint a canvas! Bring a friend!

Please come and join us all 6th-12th graders!



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 20th. In preparation for that day we will need quarters as well as laundry detergent, dryer sheets and softener. So save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's office.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kathy

This Sunday – January 7

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Jack Martin

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell

COMMUNION ASSTS: Barb Jensen & Marlene Downer

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTES: Merrick Walsh & DaKota Newsom

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

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

ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Gail Bruflat

Next Sunday – January 14

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn Margheim

POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ACOLYTES: Ryhan Buckley & Ben Moravec

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jack Martin

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

PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 7

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, January 8

2p.m. – Priscilla Circle

6p.m. – Council

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

Tuesday, January 9

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, January 10

12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – JAM

NO Confirmation

7p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, January 13

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, January 14

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

11:30 a.m. – EPIC Pizza and Painting Party in the Fellowship Hall

JANUARY 7, 2024
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



God reaches out to us through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Mark 1:4-11 | The baptism of Jesus |
| Monday | Genesis 1:1-5 | God creates light |
| Tuesday | Acts 19:1-7 | Paul baptizes in Ephesus |
| Wednesday | Matthew 28:16-20 | The commissioning of the disciples |
| Thursday | Psalms 145:14-21 | The Lord is kind and merciful |
| Friday | 1 John 3:11-24 | Love one another |
| Saturday | Psalms 29 | The voice of God in the storm |
| Sunday | John 1:43-51 | Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And just as he [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
Mark 1:10 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heaven and earth, we thank you for reaching out to us through Jesus' baptism so that your Spirit may rest on all of us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.

Meatime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for all that you create. We thank you for your power and glory that provides us food from the earth so that we may live in peace. Amen. (Psalm 29)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit bless you as God's beloved child.



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

JANUARY 7, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
I'm Going on a Journey



WEEKLY 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:

- Talk or reflect on a baptism that you witnessed.
- Do you believe that baptism is a life-changing event? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Jesus' baptism takes place in the context of a very important scene. John the baptizer is preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Huge crowds are drawn out to the wilderness to listen to John, where he baptizes and cleanses them from their broken lives. It is a time of truth telling that touches many lives. This happens in the wilderness, not in the center of political, economic, or religious powers like Jerusalem. It's a place on the edge, a place of vulnerability where surviving is not easy. Jesus' baptism happens in a life and death setting filled with hope for the future. After his baptism, Jesus sees the heavens torn apart and a divine voice announces Jesus as God's Son and the Beloved (v. 11). In Jesus, God is coming down from heaven to be with us through the Spirit that descended to be with Jesus, and through Jesus, to be with us. Jesus' baptism is the first story in the Gospel, and, therefore, has particular importance. It reveals God coming into our world through Jesus, the Son of God, bringing forgiveness and the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Discuss: How has God "come down" into your life?
Pray: Loving God, you who reach out to us through Jesus and his baptism in the wilderness, give us confidence to trust that you have come for us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christian baptisms usher in a new life in Christ that involves daily repentance and forgiveness. To emphasize the daily renewal we experience in baptism, begin the day by making the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your heart and say: "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I am a beloved child of God."



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