



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
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calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

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.

(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‡

Opening Hymn:

“As the Grain of Wheat”

ELW #465

Refrain: **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

**1. As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***

**2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

***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, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Song of Praise:

“Awesome God”

W&P #13

**Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow'r, and love
Our God is an awesome God!**

Repeat

**Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God!**

***Greeting**

The grace of our risen 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**

Faithful God,
most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:11-17

Read Responsively

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my
life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second reading: Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Verse**

Page 142

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

***Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

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

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

Hymn of the Day:

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

ELW #681

1. We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain: All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord,
we thank you, Lord,
for all your love.

2. You only are the maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread. *Refrain*

3. We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure—
our humble, thankful hearts. *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:

Hear us, O God,... **your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

....in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
**you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

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

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ‡ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn:**

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

ELW #550

**1. On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!**

**2. To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.**

**3. Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Music: As The Grains of Wheat: Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net A-705226; **We Plow the Fields and Scatter:** Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt. ©Public Domain; **On What Has Now Been Sown:** Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., ©Public Domain

In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens’ nephew’s wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **Tom Bosshardt** (hip replacement recovery), **Marsha Bueide** (recovering), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Susan Martin** (recovering from a fall), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering), **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs’ mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

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



Gail Bruflat, 7/26; Douglas Wollesen, 7/27

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.



JULY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Cereal

BACKPACKS: Packaged Treats

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



CLCW July Mission Project

Back to School Supplies

We are collecting school supplies for needy Calvary families and the Lakota Center families. Suggested items: pencils, erasers, crayons, spiral notebooks, or cash donations.



Coffee and Fellowship

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



3rd ANNUAL BBQ-LESS BBQ

*Our BBQ-Less BBQ is going on through the end of July!
A suggested \$75 donation*

All donations will go to our contingency fund to provide a financial cushion during our search for a minister.



Church Directory

We will be printing a small amount of the church directories for the people who would like one. If you would like one, please call or email the church office.



WORSHIP LEADERS

This Sunday – July 23

USHERS: Monti & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Angie Hinze
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin
COMMUNION ASSTS: Abby Newsom
POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle
ACOLYTES: Rhyan Buckley & DaKota Newsom
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – July 30

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen
LAY READER: Mary Jo Huelle
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Shari Copsey
COMMUNION ASSTS: Tracy Steele & Chris Thomas
POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
ACOLYTES: Kippen & Jacey Cochran
MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey
PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 23

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

Tuesday, July 25

1 p.m. – Quilting

Saturday, July 29

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, July 30

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

JULY 23, 2023
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is merciful and slow to anger.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the high priest
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	The Lord is merciful
Friday	Nehemiah 9:16-25	A merciful God ready to forgive
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, may your grace and mercy lead me to be humble and care for others through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your kindness and mercy that we receive through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy and loving kindness of God lead you all the days of your life.



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

JULY 23, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling*



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:

- What is something you believe very strongly?
- What makes it hard to listen to someone with different opinions than yours?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matthew's Gospel addresses divisions in the church. Who has the right message? Who is being faithful? What actions do not fit the kingdom of God? Matthew's message is clearly a word we need to hear. Today people who claim the Christian faith are much divided over morality and doctrine. Matthew has the strongest note of judgment against false witnesses, but that judgment is tempered. Through the parable of the weeds, it is understood that we are called to be witnesses, not judges. To think we can uproot and expel certain groups of people is dangerous. To believe we have the ability to judge rightly will end up destroying the good and loving work of the church, the body of Christ. We are not the judge. God is the judge. Until Judgment Day comes, we are witnesses to the truth that Jesus teaches and lives. It is enough to point to Jesus and his reign of undeserved kindness and peace.

Discuss: When have you judged others? In what ways can you show undeserved kindness and love to others?

Pray: Almighty God, give us humility to trust in you more than our own judgments so we may love and serve our neighbor through Christ Jesus, the one who judges the living and the dead. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help and lovingly serve someone who has been judged unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer, loving service, and scripture reading. Think or talk about how you can teach some of these rituals and traditions to someone else.

Pray: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. Amen. (Psalm 86:11)



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