



# **CALVARY LUTHERAN** **CHURCH ELCA**

“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**July 26, 2020**

## **Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Prayer Before Worship:** Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken and unspoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, in the name of Jesus 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)

\* Indicates please stand if able. 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 in-person or 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 together, whether in-person or online, as the baptized people of God in the name of the Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. **Amen.**

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

*(a time for reflection and self-examination)*

God of heaven and earth,

**We name before you the sin that binds us, the sin that wounds us and others, the sin that scars our world. Forgive us and heal us. Guard us from all evil. Give to us and the whole creation the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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**

Beloved and sovereign God,

**through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **✝GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US✝**

### **First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 119:129-136**

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup>**The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>With open mouth I pant,  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Keep my steps steady according to your promise,  
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>**Redeem me from human oppression,  
that I may keep your precepts.**

<sup>135</sup>Make your face shine upon your servant,  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears  
because your law is not kept.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Spoken  
(Matt. 8:11)*

**Alleluia. Many will come from east and west  
and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

**\*Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

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

<sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

**Sermon:**

**Bill Huelle, PMA**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Hymn**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

**ELW #793  
vv. 1&2**

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

**\*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:*

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

....through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

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

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray.

**Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*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.**

**\*Benediction**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
Grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
In accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
So that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn:**

**“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

**ELW #547**

**vv. 1**

**1. Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.**

Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude Music**

**Rhonda Boettcher**

**Postlude**

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

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

## ✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

*Prayers for healing:* **John, Judy Lueningborg** (abdominal problems—Deanna Zweifel’s sister-in-law), **Jay Judd** (Recovering at Residency), **Betty Kenyon** (continued growth in progress & strength—friend of Valerie Rahrs), **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), **Bonnie Noble** (Leah Nikont’s mother).

*Prayers for comfort and peace:* For Shirlye Schuldies & Shawn on the death of Shirlye’s sister, For the family and friends of **Alice Shriver**.

*Prayers of thanksgiving:* For **Jim Rahrs** (brother of Valerie Rahrs)

*Prayers for our church, community, nation and world:* in this time of Covid-19 and unsettledness and for the dry conditions that impact our farming families.

### YOUR GIVING ONLINE



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



### **New Calvary Lutheran Church Decals!!**

We now have vinyl decals available in the church office to purchase for \$5.00. All proceeds will go toward the new video/sound equipment for continued live streaming of services. Please stop by the office today to get yours!

### WOMEN OF THE ELCA MISSION PROJECT: D.O.V.E.S.



Our mission this month is monetary support for the D.O.V.E.S. shelter. Domestic Violence is alive in our local communities. Scottsbluff/Gering provides access to 24 hour crisis hotline and a shelter so those trying to escape abuse may find refuge. The shelter is always grateful for donations for the shelter and to help people set up new households. Household items and personal care items are also needed. Don’t forget to collect your unused toiletry items when traveling and staying in hotels. Thank you for your support.

## JULY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** cereal  
**BACKPACKS:** packaged treats



### **Zoom Happy Hour**

Pastor Chris & Sheryl are going on vacation!! There will not be a Zoom Happy Hour on Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> or July 29<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you all when we return!



### **Create! – Virtual VBS**



June 15 - August 9, 2020

Each Tuesday we will send out the link via text and email for that week's VBS and post it on our Facebook page. Watch the videos whenever it works for you and have fun learning about God's wonderful creation at the same time.

Then on Mondays at 10 a.m., Angie is hosting a Zoom Chat so that you can share all the fun things you have done in the past week-VBS related or not! Contact the church office if you'd like the link for your VBS-er to be a part of Angie's Zoom Chat or if you need the VBS weekly link. We are sad that we are not able to do VBS in person this summer, but hope many of you will join in this very creative VBS!!!

**We're Here To Help:** As we all deal with the uncertainty of the days ahead in light of the Covid-19, please know that we, your church family are here to offer support, prayer, and assistance. If you need help with anything, including getting supplies and/or groceries, or running errands because you do not feel comfortable getting out in public, please call the church office at 632-8023 or Pastor Chris 402-694-9189 or Pastor Sheryl 402-694-9182 for any assistance you might need. Also, if you would be willing to run errands for people in our congregation, please let us know that as well.

*We are Here  
to Help You!*





**Your Offerings:** Dear friends, we thank you for your continued support of Calvary's ministry during these unsettled times. Just a reminder the offering plates are placed at the office and sanctuary doors to receive your offerings whether you come for worship or during the week. You may also send your offering directly to the church or give electronically by scanning the QR code in this bulletin or go to our website and use the 'give now' button on our home page. If you have not already created a profile for giving electronically, you will need to do so first. If you need any help with this, do not hesitate to contact the church office.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**PMA Bill Huelle**

**This Sunday – July 26**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Jack Martin

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

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

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**SONG LEADER:** Kathy Randall

**Next Sunday – August 2**

**USHERS:** LaDonna Schmidt & Vicki Howell

**LAY READER:** Susan Martin

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, July 26**

10 a.m. – In-Person & Online Worship

**Monday, July 27**

10 a.m. – VBS Zoom Chat

**Tuesday, July 28**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, July 29**

6:30 p.m. – **NO** Zoom Happy Hour

**Saturday, August 1**

5:30 p.m. – In-Person Worship

**Sunday, August 2**

10 a.m. – In-Person & Online Worship

JULY 26, 2020  
EIGHTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*The Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalms 128	Happiness in daily life
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	God's grace is sufficient
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

##### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and sustain us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

##### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for daily food, as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

##### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you trust that nothing will separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)



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JULY 26, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*For by Grace You Have  
Been Saved*



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

#### WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

- When was there a time you felt too weak to work through a problem on your own?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to know God is with you?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating good from bad. There are details of these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. However, Jesus asks the disciples if they “understood all this,” and without any sense of hesitation they simply say, “Yes!” (v. 51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Solomon simply wants wisdom and is pleased by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12). Yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes became split into two realms because of Solomon's failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness: in the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded with much humility that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us “with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Recall when God has been with you during a time of personal weakness or difficulty. How did God help you then?

*Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

#### SERVICE

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Sometimes when a person is going through difficult times, they can easily lose sight of God. Do you know of someone who is struggling? Reach out to that person in their time of need through an act of kindness by taking time to listen.

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things. Growing the church is reliant on being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing on the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Pray daily that you may sow seeds of faith that grow into something great.



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)