



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.
July 30, 2023

Ninth 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 increase your 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

**"The Church Song"
"Seek ye First"**

**W&P #135
W&P #122**

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Welcome Song:

"The Summons"

**W&P #137
vv. 1,2&4**

- 1. "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"**
- 2. "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?"**

**Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?**

**4. "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"**

***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.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” Let the poor say
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” Let the poor say
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
Give thanks.**

***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**

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

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

⁹Give 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?"

¹⁰It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God 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, ¹²I 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

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise 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. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

"Open our eyes, Lord"

W&P #113

**Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

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

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

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it 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."

³³He 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."

⁴⁴The 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.

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

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

⁵¹Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And 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.

Kid's Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

Song of the Day:

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW #793

vv. 1-3

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.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

***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.

***Offertory Song:**

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

Chorus: **We lift our voices, we lift our hands,**

We lift our lives up to You:

We are an offering.

Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,

Lord use our lives, They are Yours:

We are an offering.

**All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, We give to You,
We give to You.
We lift our voices, We lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You:
We are an offering, We are an offering.**

***Offertory 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 Song:

"Here Is Bread"

ELW #483

**1. Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here.**

*Chorus: In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
in this moment, by the Spirit.
Christ is with us here.*

**2. Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here. *Chorus***

**3. Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes
Jesus crucified. *Chorus***

***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 Song:**

“Thy Word”

W&P #144

Chorus: **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**1. When I feel afraid,
And I think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me,
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Chorus***

**2. I will not forget
Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
And hold me to Your side,
I will love You to the end. *Chorus***

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens’ nephew’s wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **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).



Lansen Fleenor, 8/2; Deanna Zweifel, 8/2; Travis Miller, 8/4; Sheila Miller, 8/4;
Jo Heidingsfelder, 8/4; Craig Smith, 8/6

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.calvalrylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the
Give Online button OR download the **Vanco Now**
App on your smartphone. It’s safe and secure.



AUGUST FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Peanut Butter & Jelly

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

Thanks for your generosity.



CLCW August Mission Project



Cat & Pup Packs Program



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.

Worship in the Park, Sunday August 20th

Join us on Sunday, August 20th @ 10:00 a.m. for Worship in the Park. We will be at Frank Park under the gazebo across the street from the church. Worship will be followed by a congregational picnic.

For the picnic, the Church Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, plates, and silverware, while the congregation is asked to provide salads, sides, and desserts. Watch for sign-up sheets as we get closer to the date. To save on having to carry chairs across the street, the congregation is also encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

Plan now for a fun and celebratory worship service and opportunity for fellowship.



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

OWLS will be meeting **September 6th**.
Come enjoy a BBQ. Then stay for fellowship & some fun
games in the Fellowship Hall!
Come join us for a fun
afternoon!



Our JAM kickoff will be Wednesday, September 6th!

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We begin with dinner 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.



Our first EPIC meeting will be Sunday, September 10!

Our middle school/high school youth group is for kids in 6th-12th grade. We will begin our year with an outdoor picnic/lake party at Wally and Kathy Randall's home. We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and drive out to the Randall home. We will have hot dogs/chips and dessert and then have some fun swimming in their private lake. Bring a friend and don't miss out on this fun time! Bring your swimsuit, your towel and plan for a fun time!

WORSHIP LEADERS

This 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: Barb Jensen

Next Sunday – August 6

PMA: Maurine Roller
USHERS: Monti & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Marti Wegelin
POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn
ACOLYTES: Merrick Walsh & Rhyan Buckley
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 30

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

Tuesday, August 1

1 p.m. – Quilting

Saturday, August 5

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, August 6

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

JULY 30, 2023
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Solomon's prayer for justice and understanding.

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	Isaiah 30:18-26	God's promise to Zion
Thursday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good instead of evil
Friday	Luke 6:37-42	Judging others
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

"Give your servant [Solomon] therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil." 1 Kings 3:9a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, come Lord Jesus, give us your truth that we may judge with your steadfast love and mercy for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food we thank you, and for your wisdom, understanding, and mercy we pray to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you and teach you God's ways. (Psalm 119:135)



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JULY 30, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*God of Grace and
God of Glory*



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:

- When you have a conflict with someone, are you able to see the situation from the other person's perspective? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to be a fair judge of other people's thoughts and actions?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Humans have proven throughout the ages that they can explain away any thoughts and actions. Our own sense of truth and justice can be hurtful and unfair. We know how we can try to fool ourselves and others. Solomon also knew this, so he prayed to God for "*understanding to discern what is right*" (1 Kings 3:11b). The Hebrew literally says, "to hear justice." That is, to let Solomon's mind perceive and hear real justice on behalf of others. This is a daring prayer that puts others before his—and our own—interests. Our imperfect sense of justice and truth needs the humility of Solomon to recognize that God's truth stands out from our own. A good example is when the disciples heard the many parables of Jesus. Perhaps the greater wisdom would have been to acknowledge that they really did not understand them (Matthew 13:51).

Discuss: When have you prayed for wisdom and understanding?

Pray: God of justice and truth, give us a humble heart that we may see and judge people with mercy and understanding that dares to love others through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others humbly and with understanding from their viewpoint?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus told parables to teach people. A parable is a story to explain a moral or spiritual lesson. Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 includes five different parables that Jesus told to the disciples. Each time, he begins by saying, "*The kingdom of heaven is like ...*" Choose to read one of the five parables and then think or talk about what Jesus is telling you about the kingdom of heaven. *Pray:* Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught 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