



# 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.**  
**June 20, 2021**

## Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

**Prayer Before Worship:** God of eternity, by the power of your Spirit, speak your Word to us this day, that hearing, we may know your truth and live ever more faithfully for you. 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 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.

**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 and Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
**Amen.**

Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.*

Gracious God,

**We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, ✝ you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **Amen.**

**\*Song of Praise:**

**“Great is the Lord”**

**W&P #53**

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just,  
by his power we trust in his love.  
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true,  
by his mercy he proves he is love.**

**Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.  
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord, Now lift up your voice,  
Now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord!  
Great is the Lord!**

**Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory.  
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.  
Great are you, Lord, I lift up my voice,  
I lift up my voice: Great are you, Lord!  
Great are you, Lord!**

**\*Greeting**

The grace that is Christ’s gift to us, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Mighty God,

**As you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through 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‡**

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49**

<sup>1</sup>Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. <sup>4</sup>And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup>He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup>He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup>The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. <sup>8</sup>He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup>If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." <sup>10</sup>And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." <sup>11</sup>When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

<sup>19</sup>Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. <sup>20</sup>David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. <sup>21</sup>Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. <sup>22</sup>David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. <sup>23</sup>As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. <sup>32</sup>David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." <sup>33</sup>Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." <sup>34</sup>But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock,

<sup>35</sup>I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. <sup>36</sup>Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." <sup>37</sup>David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

<sup>38</sup>Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup>David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. <sup>40</sup>Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup>The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup>When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup>The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup>The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." <sup>45</sup>But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup>and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

<sup>48</sup>When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup>David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

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

### **Psalm 9:9-20**

<sup>9</sup>You, O LORD, will be a refuge for the oppressed,  
a refuge in time of trouble.

<sup>10</sup>**Those who know your name will put their trust in you,  
for you never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion;  
proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.

<sup>12</sup>**The avenger of blood will remember them  
and will not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

<sup>13</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD; see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, you that lift me up from the gates of death;

<sup>14</sup>**so that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation in the gates of the city of Zion.**

<sup>15</sup>The nations have fallen into the pit they dug; in the snare they set, their own foot is caught.

<sup>16</sup>**The LORD is revealed in acts of justice; the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.**

<sup>17</sup>The nations go down to the grave, all the peoples that forget God.

<sup>18</sup>**For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor shall the hope of the poor be taken away.**

<sup>19</sup>Rise up, O LORD, let not mortals have the upper hand; let the nations be judged before you.

<sup>20</sup>**Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know they are but mortal.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>When any of you has a grievance against another, do you dare to take it to court before the unrighteous, instead of taking it before the saints? <sup>2</sup>Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that we are to judge angels — to say nothing of ordinary matters? <sup>4</sup>If you have ordinary cases, then, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? <sup>5</sup>I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another, <sup>6</sup>but a believer goes to court against a believer — and before unbelievers at that?

<sup>7</sup>In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? <sup>8</sup>But you yourselves wrong and defraud — and believers at that.

<sup>9</sup>Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, <sup>10</sup>thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers — none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

<sup>12</sup>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

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: Mark 4:35-41**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

*Response after the gospel reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Kids Sermon:**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Larry Spomer**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”**

**ELW #763**

**vv. 1&2**

**1. My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.**

***Refrain:* No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?**

**2. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?**

***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.**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r,  
send us grace.**

**Service of Farewell and Godspeed**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

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

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come for the gifts of God are ready for the people of God!

## 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:

**"When Peace like a River"**

**ELW #785**

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

### ***Refrain***

It is well *(it is well)*  
with my soul, *(with my soul,)*  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

### ***Refrain***

3. He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain*

4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your  
own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

May the grace of God the Father bless you with peace,  
may the love of Christ, God's son, sustain you in joy,  
and may the power of the † Holy Spirit fill you with courage,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

**"This Is My Father's World"**

**ELW #824**

1. This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.

**2. This is my Father's world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world;  
he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

**3. This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## **✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠**

*Prayers for healing:* **Jack Baker** (post op healing—Pam Eskam's son-in-law), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Lorene** (cancer – Mike Belgum's mother), **Teigen Brunner** (Healing—Deb Brown's grandson), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Caleb Payne** (health issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Bill Steele** (Recovering at home), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

## Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)

**H A P P Y**  
**B I R T H D A Y**

Delores Jorgensen, 6/20; Nannie Walsh, 6/21, Gabriel Holub; 6/25

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](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.



### JUNE FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Canned Fruit

**BACKPACKS:** Oatmeal

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA JUNE MISSION PROJECT:

### Sullivan Hills Camp



SULLIVAN HILLS CAMP

This month we are asking your help in sending monetary support to Sullivan Hills Camp. The camp offers programs for grades 1-12, a confirmation camp, programs for special needs families, and a beautiful setting for retreats. Donations may be placed in the tan “*Designated Giving*” envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them WELCA Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.

### Pastor Larry preaching today!

Join us today as Pastor Larry Spomer preaches this morning at Calvary before he and Linda move to Lincoln next month.

### Farewell Blessing for Spomers & Michaels

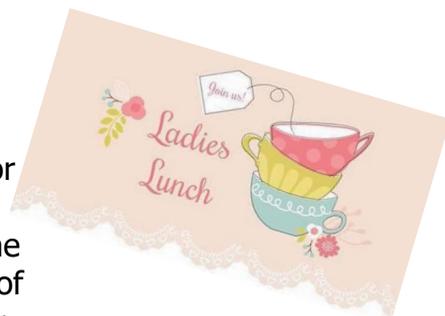
Join us TODAY, June 20<sup>th</sup> as we bid farewell and Godspeed to the Spomers and Michaels. While we will be sad to see them go; we give thanks for the life and ministry they have shared with Calvary through the years.

## Women’s Luncheon Invitation For Jan Wylie

**Saturday, June 26 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Calvary Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

The Women’s Board would like to recognize Jan Wylie for her faithful service as our treasurer for 16 years. We are grateful for all Jan has done for the Women of the ELCA here at Calvary, and we want to invite the women of the congregation to join us for a luncheon in Jan’s honor. Please come and thank Jan for her dedicated & diligent service.





## 2nd ANNUAL BBQ-LESS BBQ

Our BBQ-Less BBQ is going on through the end of June!

A suggested \$75 donation

All donations will go to the **Lakota Lutheran Center** to help them reach the funds needed to receive a matching grant which will allow them to put in new flooring at the Center.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

**This Sunday – June 20**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Susan Martin

**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr

**POWERPOINT:** Jack Martin

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

**Next Sunday – June 27**

**USHERS:** Dennis & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Kathy Randall

**COMMUNION ASST:** Bill Huelle

**POWERPOINT:** Mary Jo Huelle

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette

Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie

Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, June 20**

***Father's Day***

10 a.m. – Worship with Pastor Larry Spomer preaching

**Monday, June 21**

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

6 p.m. – Stewards

**Tuesday, June 22**

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Saturday, June 26**

12 p.m. – Women's Luncheon for Jan Wylie

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, June 27**

10 a.m. – Worship

JUNE 20, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Jesus listens to and calms our fears.*

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea
Monday	Job 38:1-11	God's rebuke of Job
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	How Paul served God
Wednesday	Psalms 46:1-11	God is our refuge
Thursday	Genesis 17:15-21	Abraham and Sarah
Friday	Isaiah 41:1-10	Israel's assured of God's help
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32	God saves those in distress
Sunday	Mark 5:21-43	Jesus heals and raises to life

#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But [Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and [the disciples] woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Mark 4:38 (NRSV)*

#### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of wind and seas, help us to trust in your power and steadfast love that we may give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ Jesus, Amen.

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

Living God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

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

May you be filled with awe at the power and love of God.



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

JUNE 20, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Shepherd Me, O God*



**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:

- Tell or think about a time you were scared.
- When do you think of God more, during good times or bad times? Explain.
- The sea with its awesome views and power is like a parable of how life is filled with both beauty and danger. Where do you see beauty and danger in life? In faith?

#### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 4:35-41.

The disciples are beside themselves with fear. The wind is howling; the waves are crashing over their little boat in a large and churning sea. It seemed like the end for them all. They wake up Jesus with a chorus of screaming cries, "Don't you care that we are going to die?" Jesus describes this as an example of having no faith. After noting their serious limitations as disciples, he calms the wind and the sea. At this point in the story, Jesus exits the discussion and the disciples simply marvel at the power of their teacher. This is the scene of the life of faith. It, too, is a kind of parable, the kind that Jesus had just told his followers. A living and real faith is like being on the waters and vacillating between sheer fear and trembling and simple awe. Although the full breadth of faith experiences from disbelief to true adoration is hard to fathom, it is the life we live. Jesus knows this; Jesus accepts this; Jesus leads us from valley lows to mountain highs with the same understanding, love, and saving grace. When have you experienced serious doubts in your faith? When have you experienced the pure joy of being a follower of Jesus? *Pray:* Almighty God, we thank you for your mercy that cares for us day and night with power and grace through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### SERVICE

The disciples were afraid in the stormy, churning sea. The oceans provide food for billions of people. Catching large numbers of fish can be an exhausting and dangerous job. Pray for those who work on the seas including those who fish as well as those who provide security as part of the Coast Guard and Navy.

#### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Father's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all men who have cared for you and others as well. Take time to talk about and give thanks for the lives of all men who parent or otherwise care for and protect our children. Conclude by praying: Dear God, we thank you for fathers and all men who care for and protect us. We especially give thanks for [names of men] who have been a blessing to our lives. Amen.



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)