



3rd
Sunday
in
Lent



"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.
March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

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

**“Grace Alone”
“My God – Psalm 23”**

**BOB
Dakota Road Music**

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Welcome Song:

“Bind Us Together”

W&P #18

**Chorus: Bind us together Lord,
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together in love.**

**1. There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body;
That is why we can sing: Chorus**

**2. You are the fam'ly of God.
You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire,
You are the glorious new wine. Chorus**

***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 holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

**ELW #335
vv. 3**

**3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.**

Refrain

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

***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**

Merciful God,

the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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: Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of
God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸**“Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-11

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also
boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance
produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has
been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed,
rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person
someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still
were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified
by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were
enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely,
having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast
in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received
reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Lenten Verse:**

“Return to the Lord”

Jay Beech

**Return to the Lord, your God,
Return to the Lord, your God,
Who is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

***Gospel: John 4:5-42**

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

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Response after the gospel reading:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Brett

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

✠WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD✠

Song of the Day:

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW #793

**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.**

**4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

***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:**

W&P #27

(Sung Prayer Response)

**I cast all my cares upon you;
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

***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)

Offering

Offertory: "A Place in the Valley"

Choir

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray... God of good gifts,
**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the
sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour
out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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 Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor, ending with... "now and forever.
Amen." The congregation responds by singing the refrain from "In the Singing")*

“In the Singing”

ELW #466

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.**

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

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: “Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW #471

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain: When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

**2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

**3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

Council President: A Church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives; new lives are born and baptized into the faith community. Individuals and families come and go throughout our life together. It is important for us to recognize and mark these times of passage, these endings and beginnings. Today we bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Brett who served us as Transitional Minister for Calvary Lutheran Church for the past 6 ½ months, and whose time with us has now drawn to a close.

Pastor Brett: I thank you, the people of Calvary Lutheran Church, both members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me these past months. I thank you for accepting my leadership and receiving me as a minister in your midst for this time of transition. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together, and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I ask your understanding and your forgiveness for the mistakes I have made and for the times I may have let you down.

Congregation: **We receive with thankfulness the ministry you have offered us in the time we have shared. We accept the you now leave us to minister elsewhere, trusting that God goes with you on that journey. Your presence among us will not be forgotten. We are grateful for the time you have been with us and ask your forgiveness for our own shortcomings and our sometimes flagging faith.**

Pastor Brett: I graciously accept with gratitude, forgive you for your failures, as Christ has forgiven me, and trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to Christ Jesus whom we are called to serve.

Council President: Do you, the members and friends of Calvary Lutheran Church, now release Pastor Brett from the duties of Transitional Minister?

We do, with the help of God.

Council President: Do you, Pastor Brett, release Calvary Lutheran Church from turning to you and relying on you to serve them as Transitional Minister?

Pastor Brett: I do, with the help of God.

Council President: Do you, Pastor Brett, offer your encouragement and prayers for the continued ministry here at Calvary Lutheran Church?

Pastor Brett: I do, with the help of God.

Let us pray.

Congregation: **O God of all creation, whose love for all is trustworthy and true, help each of us to trust you who holds the future. During our time together we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until that time when we are completely one with you and with one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Council President: Go now, Pastor Brett, with our blessing, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Christ Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen!**

***Benediction**

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

***Sending Song:**

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

ELW #666

**1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**2. When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**3. To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**4. And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

***Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.**

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Amy** (cancer), **Susan Martin** (recovering from a fall), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Lee Saip** (recovering due to an infection—Wes & Elnora’s son-in-law), **Perry Crom** (health issues-nephew of Shirlie Schuldies), **Willard Rusch** (recovering from a fall—Becca Pierce’s father), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering from heart surgery), **Catherine Rahrs** (blood clots—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **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).



Michael Schuler, 3/14; Syl Holdt, 3/14; Andrea Miller, 3/15; Crystal Newton, 3/15; Ken Shriver, 3/15; Brooke Samuelson, 3/17; Mike Belgium, 3/19; Maeve Singer, 3/19; Roy Howell, 3/19



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.



MARCH FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Sauces

BACKPACKS: Fruit Cups

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



CLCW MARCH MISSION PROJECT: Food for meals at the Lakota Lutheran Center

Cash donations will be used to help supplement the food ministry at the Lakota Center. Meals are an important part of community at the Center and extends to a large number of people. Donations may be placed in the tan "Designated Giving" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.



March 15th, the meal is @ 5:30 pm
with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm.

This week is Chicken Noodles
sponsored by the Andi Dorn &
Barb Jensen.



"Healing Mercy" is the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus willing to reach out and heal those who are hurting and desperate. This series will give us an opportunity to reflect on the stories of Jesus and his power to heal. What in us is hurting and in need of healing this season? Whether it is in body, mind, relationships, or our faith -- we all carry wounds. Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings starting February 22, Ash Wednesday. Come in faith, as together we trust that Jesus desires to extend "Healing Mercy" to us all.

2023 LENTEN LUNCHES

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent.

SCHEDULE

- March 14** - Westway Christian Church
1701 W. 27th St., Scottsbluff
- March 21** - First United Methodist Church
2002 4th Ave., Scottsbluff
- March 28** - First Presbyterian Church
101 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff

Celebrating the 250th
anniversary of the hymn
"Amazing Grace"



**Farwell Potluck Dinner for Pastor Brett & family
Today, March 12th following worship**

Please join us for church services on Sunday, March 12, which will include an official farewell for Pastor Brett and for the carry-in dinner to follow for he and his family. Bring your favorite menu item to share. Table service and drinks will be provided by Calvary and organized by our own women of the ELCA. There will be a basket for cards, and some gifts from the church will be presented. We know that there will be laughter and jokes and best wishes, but in anticipation of some sadness and possible tears, you might tuck a tissue in your pocket.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Brett Vander Berg

This Sunday – March 12

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn
Margheim

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

ACOLYTES: Ben Moravec & Merrick Walsh

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jack Martin

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Joan Smith

Lenten Wednesday – March 15

LAY READER: Chris Jensen

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

ACOLYTE: Max Judy

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – March 19

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

COMMUNION ASSTS: Abby Newsom &
Marissa Wright

POWERPOINT: Angela Bonow

ACOLYTES: Max Judy & Rhyan Buckley

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

AUDIO: Trea Hess

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

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Marlene Downer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 12

Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Potluck dinner and celebration
of the Vander Berg Family

Monday, March 13

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @

Vicki Schmidt's home

6 p.m. – Council

Tuesday, March 14

12 p.m. – Sarah's Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, March 15

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Friday, March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 18

9 a.m. – Trustees

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, March 19

10 a.m. – Worship

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

MARCH 12, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



God changes enemies into followers.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Thursday	1 Samuel 24:1-15	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Reconciling God, we thank you for reuniting us with you and with all the people of the world through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, give us thankful hearts for this meal. We pray for all to have enough to eat for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)



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

MARCH 12, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Lord, Hear My Prayer



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 characteristics do you look for in a friend? When is a time you felt you were an outsider?
- How does God's care for you feel a bit surprising, even when you know you have done something wrong?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 4:5-42.

In John 3, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus who is a male, a Pharisee, and a Jewish insider. In John 4, Jesus speaks to someone (by contrast), who is a woman, a Samaritan, and an outsider in her own community. For a Jew, a Samaritan is an enemy worthy of being excluded, but Jesus expands God's reconciling work by speaking to a Samaritan woman who is a community outsider. Jesus gives a visible example of what John 3:16 means for the church. God's love for the world brings unlikely disciples into the church who witness to Jesus. Jesus' followers are to have a real relationship to him as Savior. (The Samaritans are the only ones in John's Gospel who call Jesus "Savior.") The follower's relationship includes reaching out to others with the love of Jesus. The woman tells the people to "Come and see" Jesus (John 4:29). They do and respond that "we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world" (v. 42). The woman witnesses to Jesus so others may know him as Savior. Discuss: How do you reach out to others with the love of Jesus? Pray: Lord God, help us to see Jesus as the Savior of the world and to see our neighbor as worthy of your love. Help us to show your love to our neighbors. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you reach out to someone who seems to be an outsider in the community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the homeless and their needs. Add a donation for the homeless to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. Pray: Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to think of the homeless and how we can help fulfill their needs. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.



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