

HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

Calvary Lutheran Church
Lenten Services

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery
March 17, 2021
“Restoration”

‡AS WE GATHER‡

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter this Lenten “season of recovery” focusing on Jesus, our healer.

Prelude Music and Time for Silent Reflection

As the disciples set out together in the boat with the sleeping Jesus, a great windstorm arose so that the boat became swamped. Despite Christ's presence among us, the elements of chaos still wreak havoc in our lives, communities, and in the church—and we begin to doubt God's care and power: Jesus wakes at the disciples' cries and rebukes the wind and waves—they are no match for his command. The Christ who sleeps in the boat is the same Christ who hangs on the cross, seemingly helpless. Yet the helpless one is none other than the all-powerful Lord God. “Who then is this?” but the Lord of all! The God who in the beginning brought order to the chaotic face of the deep now in Christ brings peace as we face the storms of life.

Prayer of Confession

In preparation for this time of confession, I invite you to take hold of your broken piece of glass, as we acknowledge those broken places of our lives and our need for the healing, restoration, and renewal of our Holy Vessels that only God can give.

Let us pray:

God who stills the wind and waves,
It's been a year of storms, and yet,
even though we have seen shattered dreams and uncertain peace,
we have also seen love shine through at times.
Still we are discouraged.
So much feels out of our control,
The spread of the infection, the political divide in our country,
when our lives might truly get back to normal.
And if we're honest, we also see the ways our own faults and failures
to love each other fully, to care for the least, to honor your creation,
to stand for what is right and good, have contributed to the uncertainty.

**And so we come to you.
broken, scarred, anxious, weary,
wondering where you are in the midst of our storms.
Despite our doubts, O Lord,
we ask that you meet us here.**

**Help us, Healer.
Forgive our lack of trust.
Calm our storms.
Move us to move one step at a time
toward deeper faith in your almighty power and care for us.**

In this time of silence, we acknowledge and confess our brokenness
and our yearning for forgiveness, healing and wholeness.

Silence

Hymn:

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

**ELW #617
vv. 1**

**We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit’s touch we may again be whole.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Know this: Our faith in Jesus, doubt-filled though it may be, is enough.
No. Matter. What.
And whenever we call out to Jesus,
He is right there, bringing forgiveness, healing and wholeness
For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...

...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

†A READING FROM GOD’S WORD†

Matthew 8:18-27

And when Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but Jesus was asleep.

And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

**The Gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for reflection and meditation)

Hymn:

"Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult"

**ELW #696
vv.1,3&5**

**1. Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":**

**3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

Prayers of the People

God of healing and wholeness,
we come before you, broken and weary though we may be.
Hear our cries for healing of body, mind, and spirit.
We know that already you are at work among us,
showing us the way to recovery from the toxicities and grief of our time.

Just as the edges of beach glass are softened by the storms it has gone through,
We are not promised a smooth, storm-free life;
you promise instead your abiding presence and saving grace.

Remind us that whenever life gets difficult,
We are not alone; you are in the boat with us
seeing us through each and every storm.

We pray for those who are shattered by the violence of circumstances,
Tumbled by the forces of life,
And washed up on shores, distant from all that feels whole.

In the midst of our fear and doubt,
Reveal yourself to each of us in a way that shows your unfailing love.
Provide moments of rest, peace, and refreshment for our souls.

We pray especially this night for...

...and now as our Lord Christ taught us, we are bold to pray...

**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.**

Ritual Action for the Week

The storms of life can cause confusion and helplessness. The gospel story does not end with calm waters, but continues saying, "When they came to the other side" ...life moved on, Jesus and the disciples came ashore but another storm brewed.

God was not done. Now is the time to move forward, no matter how difficult.

What is past is past. There is brokenness in the storm's wake. But we can still move forward. We can make changes. We can face storms because we are a people led by the Healer, the Calm-in-the-Storm who offers us faith in the midst of fear.

Take your piece of glass and hold it in your hand.
Imagine where it came from and how it came to rest upon the beach.
Think of the storms it went through before it became smooth.
Remember, God does not cause the storms in life,
but God is present with us in the storms.

We have a choice,
We can struggle on our own often becoming bitter
or we can call out to God, lean on God's strength,
and find the rough edges of hurt and loss softened and smoothed.
God can use the storms of your life to shape and mold you,
to shape and mold your faith.

If you are in a 'stormy place' in your own life right now,
ask God to be your strength, your anchor in the storm.
If the storm has passed look at your glass and reflect how God has led you through
and give thanks for God's protective hand.

Closing Hymn:

"Thy Holy Wings"

**ELW #613
vv. 1&2**

**1. Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.**

**2. Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.**

Blessing for the Journey

This week the reaction of the disciples in the story is amazement at Jesus' connection to the cosmic forces of wind and wave. Psalm 29 says the voice of the Lord is over the waters...the voice of the Lord is a powerful voice.

Now go with confidence
that we can face whatever storm comes our way
because Jesus is in the boat with us.

Go assured of the depth of God’s love for each and every one of us;
And be filled with the peace that passes all understanding.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
“why are you afraid?”
Trust in Jesus’ power to see you through the storm.

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
salve to your soul
and a spring in your step.
Amen.

Postlude

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✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **Kristi & Jack Baker** (health issues—Pam Eskam’s daughter & son-in-law), **Barb Gorr** (back surgery on Friday), **Syl Holdt** (knee surgery recovery), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Ron Wegelin** (health issues), **Shirlie Schuldies** (health issues-mainly her heart), **Caleb Payne** (health issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Laynette Van Anne** (brain tumor—friend of Dee Brady), **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Nancy & Tracy Steele** (COVID-19 health issues), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller’s uncle), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **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).

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!

Holy Week Schedule



March 28th - Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 a.m.

April 1st - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 p.m.

April 2nd - Good Friday Service with Youth @ 7:30 p.m.

April 3rd - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service @ 5:30 p.m.



April 4th - Easter Sunday Service

@ 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

**All Services will be in-person and will broadcast
LIVE on our Facebook Page:
Calvary Lutheran Scottsbluff**