



4th 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 19, 2023

Fourth 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 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.*

(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

Welcome and Announcements

†WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS†

Opening Hymn:

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

**ELW #673
vv. 1&2**

- 1. God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**
- 2. Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.**

***Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

(All may make the sign of the cross ✠ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

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.**

***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**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,
and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Lenten Verse:**

"Let Your Steadfast Love..."

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Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

***Gospel: John 9:1-41**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

Sermon:

PMA Maurine Roller

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

✚WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD✚

Hymn of the Day: “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

**ELW #779
vv. 1,2&4**

- 1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
- 4. The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

***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:

Merciful God...**receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

....through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***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 Prayer**

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.**

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.**

✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠

***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 Hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

ELW #807

- 1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 2. Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Jan Van Newkirk, Wes Sell, 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 Shirlye Schudies), **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).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brian Christeleit, 3/20; Derek Smith, 3/23; Larry Spomer, 3/23;
Randy Schafer, 3/24; Paul Bueide, 3/26

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 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 22nd, the meal is @ 5:30 pm
with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm.

This week is Baked Potato Bar
sponsored by the JAM & EPIC kids.



"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 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"



WORSHIP LEADERS

This Sunday – March 19

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

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

Lenten Wednesday – March 22

LAY READER: Jack Martin

POWERPOINT: Angela Bonow

ACOLYTE: Max Judy

AUDIO: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – March 26

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Marissa Wright

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell

COMMUNION ASSTS: Deb Brown, Marlene Downer

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

ACOLYTES: Jacey Cochran

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jack Martin

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey

PIANIST: Dee Brady

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Joan Smith

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 19

10 a.m. – Worship

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

Monday, March 20

5 p.m. – Stewards

Tuesday, March 21

12 p.m. – Sarah Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Worship

Wednesday, March 22

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, March 25

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, March 26

10 a.m. – Worship

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

MARCH 19, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Faith sees while absolute certainty blinds.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:4-19	Jeremiah's call
Thursday	Proverbs 15:1-5	The Lord sees everything
Friday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." John 9:39 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God of justice and mercy, heal us of our blindness that keeps us from loving you and our neighbor through Jesus Christ, the one who came that we may see. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for this food that reminds us of your overflowing goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen. (Psalm 23)

A Blessing to Give:
May Christ's love shine on you with all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5)



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MARCH 19, 2023 HYMN OF THE WEEK *Christ, Be Our Light*

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:

- Think or talk about a time you were in a conversation and convinced you were right.
- How is faith in Jesus something different than being sure that you are right and others are wrong?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 9:1-41.

This story addresses extreme contrasts between sight and blindness, between those who see and those who do not see. Jesus heals a man born blind. The certainty of the Pharisees becomes their blindness. They try to refute the fact that the man was born blind. They despise him and drive him out for stating both the truth of the Jewish faith and saying that he was blind and now sees. Both the truth of the tradition and his experience are totally rejected. Jesus points out that it is the leaders' absolute certainty that shows how blind they are to the truth. There are times in our own lives when being absolutely certain about something and not seeking other possibilities shows our blindness. This story reminds us that faith and trust in Jesus is wiser and more honest than arrogant, self-confidence. Faith sees Jesus and his ability to create light and life. Human certainty is always in danger of being blind to who Jesus is and what he means for the world that God loves.

Discuss: How might your pride, sense of certainty, and arrogance get in the way of caring about others?

Pray: God of truth, help us to let go of anything that blinds us to your love and work in the world so that we may see Jesus and follow him with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you address others with humility and the ability to learn from them?

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 needs of those who are blind or cannot see well. Some are unable to pay for glasses or receive medical care. Add a donation to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent.

Pray: Loving God, help us to care for those in need of good eyesight. 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

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