

5th 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 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer Before Worship: Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. 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.)

* 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.*

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

***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)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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**

Holy God,

by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world. Amen.

✠GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US✠

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:9-16

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean?
By keeping to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments.**

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD;
instruct me in your statutes.**

¹³With my lips I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

***Lenten Verse**

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

***Gospel: John 12:20-33**

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Kids' Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Hymn of the Day:**

"Restore in Us, O God"

**ELW #328
vv. 1-3**

**1. Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.**

**2. O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.**

**3. Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.**

***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 with:

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

***Exchange of Peace**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

‡HOLY COMMUNION & DISMISSAL‡

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

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

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 one station in the front of the church with the
pulpit side of the church being dismissed first.*

*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.)*

*For those worshipping with us online who are interested in receiving Holy Communion,
Drive-Through Communion will be available in the parking lot immediately following the
worship service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*

Distribution Music:

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

God of steadfast love, in this meal you nourish us with the gifts of faith and hope. Sustain us on our journey, that refreshed by your grace, our lives would bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:**

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

ELW #339

vv. 1&2

**1. Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**2. You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Music: Restore in Us, O God: Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI License #182504; **Christ, the Life of All the Living:** Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. ©Public Domain



Derek Smith, 3/23; Larry Spomer, 3/23;
Randy Schafer, 3/24; Bill Steele, 3/25;
Paul Bueide, 3/26; Eric Dorn, 3/27; Carmen Kleager, 3/27
If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: Kristi & Jack Baker (health issues—Pam Eskam’s daughter & son-in-law), **Barb Gorr** (recovering from back surgery), **Syl Holdt** (recovering from knee surgery), **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!

Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office or let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.



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 **Give+Church 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.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA MARCH MISSION PROJECT:

Food for meals at the Lakota 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 reach a large number of people. Be sure to designate WELCA on your donation.

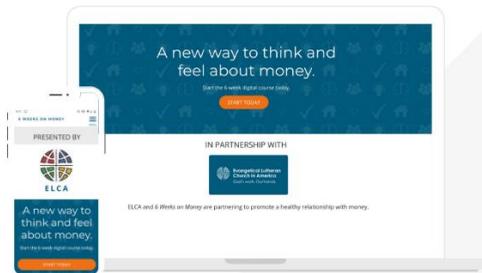
EASTER LILIES



You are invited to bring an Easter Lily to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would like to dedicate your plant *in honor of or in memory* of a loved one, fill out the form located outside the church office and return it to the office so that we can print these remembrances in the Easter bulletins. You may bring your plant between March 28 - April 3 and may take it home after the Easter Sunday services to enjoy at home.

Calling all 4th-8th graders! We would like to set up an acolyte schedule again, so if you would like to be put on the acolyte schedule call/text Angie at 631-2768.

6-week digital course on **faith & money**



- ✓ Increase Savings
- ✓ Eliminate Debt
- ✓ Live generously

Enroll today in a six-week digital course on money and faith. Discover how a grace-filled way of thinking and feeling about money can bring hope and freedom to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and enhance our generosity. Explore money focused on values, agility, options, scarcity, integrity, and giving.

<https://start.sixweeksonmoney.com/courses/ELCA>

First Communion Class

We will be offering a class on the meaning of Holy Communion during Lent for any child wishing to begin receiving Holy Communion. For those interested, **they will receive their First Communion during our Worship Service on Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m.**

Please note that there is no minimum age at which your child can begin to receive Holy Communion at Calvary—when your child begins to receive Holy Communion is up to you the parent(s). We do, however, encourage you to have your child (*and at least one or both parent(s) or even a grandparent*) attend a First Communion class prior to receiving Holy Communion so that they might have a basic understanding of Holy Communion.

Our First Communion class will be March 21st @ 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in having your child participate in the First Communion class, please contact Pastor Chris or Pastor Sheryl, so that we can make sure to have enough supplies and establish a date and time that is convenient for all. Please contact us by March 10th to give us time to organize a class.

Lutheran Family Service Telehealth Mental Health Services Now Available Here at Calvary

2020 has been a stressful year. If you have found the disruption of the holidays the last straw in your ability to cope there is help available through Lutheran Family Services. LFS (Lutheran Family Services) has partnered with several remote sites to provide counseling and other needs through computer teleconferencing (or Telehealth).

If you would like to take advantage of these services, specifically talking with an LFS counselor, come to Calvary and we can help connect you to a counselor! Or go online at www.LFSneb.org. (You can also call LFS directly at 402-441-7940 or 1-833-903-2376.) Be prepared to spend about 15 to 30 minutes doing online paperwork, including your insurance information. Counseling fees will be handled directly through LFS, there is no fee for use of the computer here at Calvary, (it was provided by LFS) or for the use of the private space.

If life has you down, know there is someone to talk to and help you work through any of life's struggles including depression, relationship issues, parenting difficulties, abuse, as well as getting through this pandemic. Starting the process is available anytime on your home computer and scheduling an appt. with a counselor is very flexible on any computer with camera and internet capabilities. If you would like to use the computer here at Calvary or begin the process with assistance through the office, please come Monday through Thursday from 9-3 PM. (Not available Friday or Weekends.) You may also contact us for more information.



GOD'S WORK – OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

The Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska has a program to help families in need of emergency financial assistance. They assist families with emergency shelter, utility assistance, assistance with rent, and other needs. Let's help support our neighbors by contributing to this important program. For the months of February and March, we are asking Calvary to prayerfully consider providing financial assistance. The need is great at this time due to the financial hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can help by making a donation to Calvary Lutheran designated to this cause. Please mark your offering as Emergency Family Support. A member of Calvary has offered to match the congregational giving up to \$500.

"For as you have done it for the least of those my brothers, you have done it for me."
Matthew 25:40



"He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Matthew 8:17b

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 for many their sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten 'season of recovery', we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

Join us on Wednesday nights during Lent

@ 6:30 p.m.

as we discover how each of us is a holy vessel despite our brokenness.

Please note: there will be NO Lenten Dinners this year

Holy Week Schedule

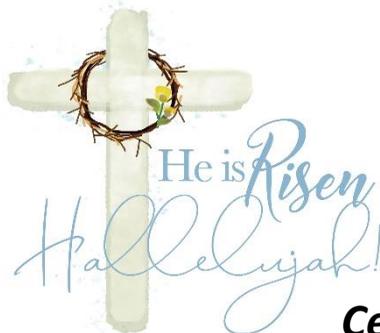


March 28th - Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 a.m.

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**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – March 21

USHERS: Deb Brown, Jack Martin

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

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

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Chris Thomas

Next Sunday – March 28

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen

LAY READER: Kathy Randall

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 21

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

1:30 P.m. – First Communion Class

Tuesday, March 23

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary
1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, March 24

6:30 p.m. – Worship

Choir Practice following Worship

Saturday, March 27

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



A time for new beginnings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant from God
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as high priest
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 3:5-18	Ministers of the new covenant
Thursday	Nehemiah 1:5-11	Nehemiah prays for his people
Friday	Hebrews 8:6-13	A better covenant
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 14:1-15:47	The passion of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

A Prayer for the Week:

God of new beginnings, help us to face our shortcomings; knowing that you promise to be our God and that we are your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food restore our bodies as your promise of love and care for us restores our hearts. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God create in you a clean heart through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.



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

MARCH 21, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

WEEKLY MILESTONES

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time you failed at something.
- Failure is a part of life, but when we learn from our mistakes, it is not a total failure, but a learning moment. When have you learned from your mistakes?
- The Bible is filled with mistakes by God's people, yet God refuses to give up on us. What does that say about the God who reaches out to us through Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Jeremiah is speaking to a people who are either in exile in Babylon or about to be conquered and sent to Babylon. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians well over a hundred years before. Now the southern kingdom of Judah is doomed. The people have been unfaithful and God's promises to Abraham, Moses, and David seem to have come to naught. But Jeremiah prophesies, "Not so." God promises to find a new way, a new covenant. This passage is about God's people only because it is about the God who continues to claim them. God will not give up on the people God loves. It is the very nature and character of God not to give up on us. God finds a way by having a new covenant, a new start. What God ordains will happen; we shall be God's people and God will be our God. We are not there yet. We are people of the new covenant, but the prophecy has not happened completely. We still need to be taught, but the day is coming that God's promise will be fulfilled. How do you learn about faith in Christ?

Pray: God of the new covenant, give us faith to trust in your promises and courage to walk in your ways through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.

SERVICE

Psalms 51 is a prayer for cleansing and pardon. Christian prison ministries reach out to inmates with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. There are many who care for the children and families of prisoners and lead Bible studies and prayer with the prisoners. Pray for those who work with inmates and their families this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is our fifth week suggesting the discipline of using the *Daily Bible Readings*. At the core of new beginnings for Christians is the work of God revealed from the cross and in the Bible. Begin each day's reading by reciting Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Say the *Prayer for the Week* after each reading, add your own prayers, and end by saying: Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.



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