



“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)

**Saturday Evening Worship - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.**  
**March 23 & 24, 2024**

## Palm/Passion Sunday

**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.

**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.

**Prayer Before Worship:** Compassionate God, your love finds full expression in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son, who willingly met betrayal and death to set us free from sin. Give us courage to live obediently in these days until we greet the glory of our risen Savior. 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.)*

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

### ‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

#### \*Procession with Palms

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!** (*waving Palm Branches*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise and bless you, O God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sovereign God,  
you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!** (*waving Palm Branches*)

**“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

**ELW #344**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**2. The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!** (*waving Palm Branches*)

**\*Song of Praise:**

**“Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

**W&P #77**

**Jesus, name above all names,  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word. Repeat**

**‡GOD’S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens —  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

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

### **Psalm 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my  
acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**  
<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation:                      Jesus, Remember Me                      ELW #616**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**\*Gospel: Mark 14:1-16**

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

<sup>1</sup>It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

<sup>3</sup>While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

<sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." <sup>16</sup>So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

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

**Kids' Sermon (Sun):**

**Pastor Kathy**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Kathy**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**✚WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD✚**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

**ELW #335**

**1. Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

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

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

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*

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. *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.

**\*Prayers of the Church (Sat):**

*Each petition ends with:*

Hear us, O God...**your mercy is great.**



**\*Prayers of the Church (Sun):**

**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.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

...Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,  
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)*

**"Hosanna" (Sun)**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Jesus,

**you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

**‡HOLY COMMUNION‡**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **\*Words of Institution**

Holy God,

You alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **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.**

## **\*Invitation to Communion**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

*We celebrate with Dyllen Pierce as she partakes in her First Communion.  
Dyllen and her family are invited to come forward at this time.*

**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.*

*APPLE 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 (Sun):**

**“Amazing Love”**

**W&P #8**

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

**“There In God's Garden”**

**ELW #342**

**vv. 1-4**

**1. There in God's garden  
stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth  
the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge,  
Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.**

**2. Its name is Jesus,  
name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches  
see the scars of suff'ring;  
see where the tendrils  
of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.**

**3. Thorns not its own  
are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it,  
our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives!  
its grief has not destroyed it  
nor fire consumed it.**

**4. See how its branches  
reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says,  
"Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness,  
give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Catherine Rahrs** (major medical issues—Val Rahrs' mother), **Family of Baby Gideon, Larry Spomer** (left knee replacement surgery) **Larry Loeks** (improved health), **Jack Day** (stroke—Lynn Margheim's brother), **Glenna Linfield** (hospice— Pastor Kathy's aunt), **Jeremy** (test results—Deb Brown's son), **Bert Bessey, Shelia Colson** (hospital recovery), **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Drew Selck** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer— Larry Gibbs' brother), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Zeke Chilcott** (deployed—friend of Marissa Wright), **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



Eric Dorn, 3/27; Carmen Kleager, 3/27

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 **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



### Coffee and Fellowship

We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.



## **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.

## **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 25 - March 31 and may take it home after the Easter Sunday services to enjoy at home.

### **Middle School Gathering 2.0**

***My story is Your story is Christ's story is Our Story***

**April 13, 2024**

**9:30 AM - 6:30 PM**

A Synod wide day of service for middle school youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. There will be no cost to you. It's located in Sidney, NE and Pastor Kathy will be taking the students. If you student is interested in attending, please let Pastor Kathy or Christy know immediately as registration closes April 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Grab & Go Lunch



The Outreach Committee is now offering a ministry called Grab & Go Lunch for our community. It will be providing sustainable lunches for consumption either immediately or later in the day. It will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 12-2 pm. The organizers will plan & prepare lunches (main item, fruit/veggie & drink) and cleanup of meal prep. The distributors will oversee final packaging, handing out of the meals the day of and final cleanup. If you or your group are interested in being the organizers, the distributors or both please sign up by scanning the QR code above or on the sign-up sheet by the office. More information is available by the church office or by scanning the QR code.



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP TIMES

Worship times for Holy Week are as follows:

**Maundy Thursday – 6:30 PM**

**Good Friday – 7 PM**

**Easter Breakfast – 9 – 9:45 AM**

**Easter Sunday – 10 AM**

**Easter Egg Hunt – following worship**

### **March 29: Good Friday Service @ 7:00 p.m.**

The Calvary youth will lead the Good Friday Tenebrae service and "Watch the Lamb" drama this year. All youth are welcome to participate in this service. You will need to dress in plain black attire (from head to toe). We will meet at the church at 5:30 pm on March 29 to rehearse, followed by pizza and drinks. We will also practice TODAY (3/24) following worship. Lunch will be provided.





## March 31: Easter Sunday

Come and join us on Easter starting with an Easter Breakfast from 9 - 9:45 am. Then Easter Service starts at 10:00 am! And after service join us for our Easter Egg Hunt!



For our present ushers & those who would like to usher, there will be an informational meeting April 14 following worship. If you have any questions, please contact Bill @ (308)631-3389.

For all 6<sup>th</sup> grade through Confirmation Youth that are Acolytes & those interested in becoming an Acolyte, there will be an informational meeting April 14 following worship. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathy @ (308)874-6025 or Bill @ (308)631-3389.



## WNCC's Spring Gala "Heroes vs. Villains"

Join us April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> @ the Gering Civic Center. Tickets can be purchased through the WNCC website @ <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=231457> or by calling the box office. It's going to be a fun evening! Dinner is included with your ticket.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor Kathy**

### **This Sunday – March 24**

**USHERS:** Deb & Vicki Howell

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**COMMUNION ASSTS:**

**POWERPOINT:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ACOLYTES:** Brody & Mattea Weitzel

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

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

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP** *Please sign up!*

### **Maundy Thursday – March 28**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell, Deb  
Brown, Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTE:** Brody & Mattea Weitzel

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

### **Next Sunday – March 31**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Tracy Steele &  
Chris Thomas

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Kippen & Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

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

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, March 24**

#### ***Palm Sunday***

10 a.m. – Worship

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

11:30 a.m. – EPIC/JAM Lunch &  
Good Friday Rehearsal

### **Monday, March 25**

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

### **Tuesday, March 26**

1 p.m. – Quilting

### **Thursday, March 28**

#### ***Maundy Thursday***

6:30 p.m. – Worship

7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Friday, March 29**

#### ***Good Friday***

5:30 p.m. – EPIC/JAM Good Friday  
Rehearsal

7 p.m. – Worship: “Watch the Lamb”

### **Saturday, March 30**

**NO** Worship

### **Sunday, March 31**

#### ***Easter Sunday***

9 - 9:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

10 a.m. – Worship

Easter Egg Hunt following worship

MARCH 24, 2024  
PALM/PASSION  
SUNDAY



*Jesus' entry into Jerusalem gives us hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Mark 14:1-15:47	The passion of Jesus
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A servant song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ hymn
Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-13	Judgment on Israel's enemies
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	The passion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,  
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*  
Mark 11:9 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Almighty God, help us to see beyond our short-sightedness to the hope that is for all of us through the cross of Christ, that we may have life. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, blessed are you, the one who comes to us with this gift of food in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and hope.



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

MARCH 24, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*



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 when you or someone you know felt rejected or sad.
- What is it about God's steadfast love that is deserving of your praise, especially as you think about Jesus' journey to the cross?

#### **DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Mark 11:1-11.

It is not just by chance that the crowds who shout, "Hosanna!" days later also shout, "Crucify him!" (Mark 15:13). This contrast leads us to look back to the beginning of the Gospel of Mark where Jesus' first message is, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15b). To repent is to change one's mind; to see new things, and to see things differently. The crowds shouting, "Hosanna" have a customary view of power and authority. The power Jesus brings is quite different from the authority of leaders filled with jealousy and fear like the high priests and pilots, the Roman governor. Jesus' humble rule is displayed from a colt and is filled with self-giving love that conquers all, even triumphing over his own rejection and death. Palm Sunday points to a kingdom with good news and hope for the rejected and those who feel powerlessness. To truly hear the good news is to repent of anything less than Jesus' rule that alone gives us reason to say, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 9).

*Discuss:* What makes it difficult for you to see Jesus' power and glory from the cross?

*Pray:* God of power and might, in a world torn apart by fear and jealousy, help us to see in your reign on earth the true source of hope through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring hope to someone who may be feeling rejected?

#### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him. He turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

*Then pray:* Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to live for you. 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)