



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday *in* Lent

*"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."*

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Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**March 5, 2023**

## Second 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:

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ELW #802  
vv. 1&2

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.

Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.

**Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.**

**\*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.**

**\*Glory to God:**

**Page 139**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. 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**

O God,  
our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

## Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

**<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**<sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## Epistle Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

**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 3:1-17**

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Kids Sermon:

Pastor Brett

Sermon:

Pastor Brett

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡**

Hymn of the Day:

**“Blessed Assurance”**

**ELW #638**

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

*Refrain:*

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sigh;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *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:**

*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: "You Raise Me Up"**

**Choir**

**\*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.**

## ‡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 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 Music**

**Rhonda Boettcher**

#### **\*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‡**

**\*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:**

**“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”**

**ELW #545**

- 1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.**
  
- 2. Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.**
  
- 3. Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.**

**\*Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

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**Music: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus:** Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. OneLicense.net #A-705226; **Blessed Assurance:** Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 ©Public Domain; **Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing:** Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt. ©Public Domain

## 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).



Ella Foote, 3/5; Craig Bartel, 3/5; Jennifer Schafer, 3/6; Elizabeth Buckley, 3/6;  
Joe Lentz, 3/7; Melissa Guerrero, 3/7; Caleb Payne, 3/8; Neal Blomenkamp, 3/11;  
Marv Braaten, 3/12



### 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.



### 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, the meal is @ 5:30 pm  
with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm.  
This week is Ham & Potatoes  
sponsored by the CLCW.



"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 7** - St. Francis Episcopal Church  
14 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff
- 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. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff

Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the hymn  
"Amazing Grace"



**Farwell Potluck Dinner for Pastor Brett & family  
Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5**

**USHERS:** Deb Brown & Vicki Howell

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

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

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Ayden Tompkins & DaKota Newsom

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

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

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** Treat Fund

**Lenten Wednesday – March 8**

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**ACOLYTE:** Brynlee Payne

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** *Please sign up!*

**Next 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, March 5**

10 a.m. – Worship

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

**Monday, March 6**

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Chris Thomas' home

**Tuesday, March 7**

12 p.m. – Sarah's Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, March 8**

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 9**

11:30 a.m. – Exec Meeting

**Saturday, March 11**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, March 12**

***Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead***

10 a.m. – Worship

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

MARCH 5, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*God loves us all through Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world
Monday	Genesis 12:1-4a	Call of Abram
Tuesday	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	God's promise gained through faith
Wednesday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Thursday	Psalms 5	Trust in God
Friday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."  
John 3:16 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**  
Holy God, help us to trust in your goodness and mercy and not our own strength and have faith that you save the ungodly through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**  
Dear Lord, you who watch our going out and coming in each and every day, we thank you for protecting us with this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

**A Blessing to Give:**  
May God bless you with peace and joy, now and always.



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MARCH 5, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Blessed Assurance*



**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:
- Do you think you deserve everything you have? Explain.
  - God cares for us through a whole community of care. How has God cared for and protected you through family, friends, or mentors?

**DEVOTIONS**

**Read:** Romans 4:1-5, 13-17.  
Even though the Gentiles were not descendants through the Torah (the law), Paul is seeking to help Jews understand that Gentiles can also be descendants of Abraham. It is important to establish that God is reliable. The promise God made to Abraham—including Gentile nations—is reliable because the covenant with Abraham was established through faith, not the flesh. It is the very character of God to include all people, not just Jews. Whether Jew or Gentile, whether good or bad, God makes a solid, reliable, and saving relationship with us through faith. God saves the ungodly sinners. How can this be? It is because we have the God who creates out of nothing. God does not need to create children of God out of our goodness through the law. God takes our broken lives and makes something new because God *gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist*" (v. 17). God does this so that all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
**Discuss:** Where have you seen God's love for others and does it surprise you that God saves the ungodly?  
**Pray:** Loving God, you who give life to the dead and bring into existence what does not exist, thank you for creating us as children of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you offer God's protective care to others?

**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 consider an amount you might spend on yourself, and instead add that amount 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 remember to give generously to those in need. 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)