



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

Saturday Evening Worship - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.
March 9 & 10, 2024

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is an abundance of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

**ELW #335
vv. 3**

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

***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,

rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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‡

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

***Lenten Verse:**

“Return to the Lord”

Jay Beech

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

***Gospel: John 3:14-21**

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

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Kids' Sermon (Sun):

Sermon:

Pastor Kathy

(Silence for reflection and meditation)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW #666

**1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**2. When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**3. To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**4. And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

***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.**

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.**

***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.**

***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)

“Let the Walk of Faith Begin” with “Walking with Jesus” (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.

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): "I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW #485

***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: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

ELW #759

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

***Dismissal**

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

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Neal Blomenkamp, 3/11; Marv Braaten, 3/12; Michael Schuler, 3/14;
Syl Holdt, 3/14; Andrea Miller, 3/15; Crystal Newton, 3/15;
Kenny Shriver, 3/15; Brooke Samuelson, 3/17

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **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), **David Ott** (heart problems—Pastor Kathy’s uncle), **Jack Martin** (gallbladder surgery), **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Mary Jo Huelle** (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).



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.



The Young at Heart Fellowship Group will have its first gathering, a Game Day on Sunday, March 17, following fellowship. The group is open to all, with fellowship activities planned to be aimed at young families and "young" adults. If you are "young at heart,"

we would love to have you join us. Contact Maunette Loeks or Val Rahrs for details about how you can be involved. You can also submit your ideas and details on our survey: tinyurl.com/youngadultfellows

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 13th, the meal is @ 5:30 pm with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm. The meal will be Scalloped Potatoes & Ham sponsored by CLCW.



The Five Solas are the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. These are five central truths that came out of the Reformation – 1 Scripture Alone, 2 Christ Alone, 3 Faith Alone, 4 Grace Alone and 5 Glory of God Alone. Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings.

2024 LENTEN LUNCHES

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent.

SCHEDULE

- March 12** - Westway Christian Church
1701 W. 27th St., Scottsbluff
- March 19** - St. Francis Episcopal Church
14 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff



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 4th 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kathy

This Sunday – March 10

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell

COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn
Margheim

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

ACOLYTES: DaKota Newsom & Merrick
Walsh

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jack Martin

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

PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP *Please sign up!*

Lenten Wednesday – March 13

LAY READER: Marissa Wright

ACOLYTE: Max & Jack Judy

AUDIO: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – March 17

USHERS: Chris & Barb Jensen

LAY READER: Chris Jensen

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin

COMMUNION ASSTS: Abby Newsom &
Marissa Wright

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTES: Ben Moravec & Rhyan Buckley

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

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

ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, March 11

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @
Vicki Schmidt's

6 p.m. – Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 12

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, March 13

12 p.m. – OWLs Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. – Lenten Worship

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, March 16

9 a.m. – Trustees

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, March 17

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

MARCH 10, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



God is rich in mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Romans 9:6-18	God's choice of Israel
Thursday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Friday	Titus 3:1-8	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.
Ephesians 2:4-5 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy, your love for us is more than we deserve but all that we need and want through Jesus Christ, your Son who came to give us eternal life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your kindness to us is everlasting; we thank you for your daily love for us that includes this gift of food. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy of God be your everlasting joy.



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

MARCH 10, 2024



HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wilderness in
God's Mercy*

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:

- When is a time you needed to ask for help with something because you could not do it alone?
- A relationship with God is a gift that only God can give us. How is this a challenge to our desire to control our own destiny?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10.

These verses are packed with powerful themes, some of which pose a challenge to make-it-on-your-own individualism and flawed self-confidence. Ephesians points out that: 1) we were spiritually dead because of our brokenness; 2) our misguided passions for pleasure lead us away from God; 3) only God's mercy, grace, and love can intervene to renew our lives in Christ; and 4) God's intervention gives us a new and God-focused passion to do good works, not to earn anything but to simply live as we were created to be. Once we get beyond a sense of making it on our own in life—including making it spiritually with God—we are set free to experience lives that "God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (v. 10). God's nature is love and mercy. In the language of Psalm 107:1, God is good and God's "steadfast love endures forever." Similarly, Ephesians 2:8 summarizes much of our biblical faith: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."

Discuss: How does God's mercy and grace make a difference in your daily life?
Pray: Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for your love that never ceases to reach out to us with your saving grace through Jesus Christ. 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 show love and mercy to someone who is hurting?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Light four 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: Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and into the light of Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen. (John 3:16)



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