



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

*“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.  
May 2, 2021**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Prayer Before Worship:** God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. 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.)*

**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.

**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/Accurance 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**

O God,

**you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 ☩**

#### **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.  
<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

### **Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **Epistle Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

### **\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**Page 142**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **\*Gospel: John 15:1-8**

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

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

**Kids Sermon:**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**+WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD+**

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

**"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"**

**ELW #818  
vv. 1-3**

**1. O Master, let me walk with you  
in lowly paths of service true;  
tell me your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**2. Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**3. Teach me your patience; share with me  
a closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**

**\*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:*

Risen Lord....hear our prayer.

*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.

**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. 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**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

### **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.)*

**“Redemption Song”**

**Choir**

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our 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 is Alive! Let Christians Sing”**

**ELW #389**

**vv. 1,4&5**

- 1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
  
- 4. Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**
  
- 5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **Postlude**

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**Hymns: O Master, Let Me Walk with You:** Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. ©Public Domain; **Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing:**

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## **+In Our Thoughts and Prayers+**

Prayers for healing: **LaDonna Schmidt** (recovering from colon cancer surgery), **Lorene** (cancer – Mike Belgum's mother), **Deb** (knee replacement surgery—Janet Miller's sister), **Teigen Brunner** (Healing—Deb Brown's grandson), **John Rahrs** (heart surgery—Val Rahrs' dad), **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), **Bill Steele** (Recovering from COVID-19), **Beth Janecek** (Radiation), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **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 of comfort and peace: For the family & friends of **Archie Wyatt Wilson** (infant son of Kaitlyn Blunt & grandson of Lisa & Terry Wilson), For the family & friends of **Kent Zweifel** (Robert & Deanna Zweifel's son), For the family & friends of **Tim Smith** (Joan Smith's son, Angie Hinze & Pat Smith's brother)

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, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)



Jack Martin, 5/4; Brigitta Loseke, 5/4; LaDonna Schmidt, 5/4;  
Larry Sibal, 5/6; Sherry Belgum, 5/7

*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 **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



## **MAY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED**

**FOOD PANTRY:** Oatmeal

**BACKPACKS:** Pudding Cups

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA MAY MISSION PROJECT:**

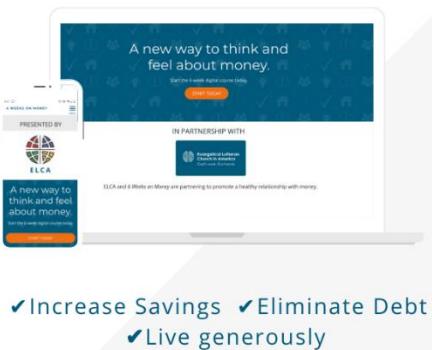
### **CALVARY KITCHEN SHOWER**



A box will be placed in the Reception Area on the table under the Women of the ELCA bulletin board next to Pastor Chris's office to receive items needed for the kitchen. The kitchen could use the following: dish soap, scratch pads, paper towels, napkins, Country Time lemonade, salt and pepper, coffee creamer, Comet, aluminum foil. Saran Wrap or Press N Seal, (quart & gallon) Zip Lock Bags, and artificial sweetener.

Cash donations are also welcome; be sure to clearly mark them 'Kitchen Shower' when sending to or dropping off at the church. Be sure to designate WELCA on the envelope.

## 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>

### **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](http://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.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

**This Sunday – May 2**

**USHERS:** Dennis & Barb Gorr

**LAY READER:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**POWERPOINT:** Mary Jo Huelle

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

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

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**SONG LEADER:** Beth Janecek

**Next Sunday – May 9**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Susan Martin

**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

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

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, May 2**

10 a.m. – Worship

5 p.m. – Epic – Backyard Bible Study @  
Hinze's

**Tuesday, May 4**

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, May 5**

10 a.m. – Ruth Circle

12 p.m. – OWLS BBQ

6 p.m. – JAM

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, May 8**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, May 9**

***Mother's Day***

10 a.m. – Worship

**MAY 2, 2021**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY**  
**OF EASTER**

# taking faith home

*Perfect love casts out fear.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday

**John 15:1-8**

Monday

**Acts 8:26-40**

**Philip and the eunuch**

Tuesday

**1 John 4:7-21**

**God is love**

Wednesday

**Isaiah 41:8-10**

**Jesus the true vine**

Thursday

**1 Peter 5:6-11**

**Tending the flock of God**

Friday

**Deuteronomy 31:6-8**

**Joshua becomes Moses' successor**

Saturday

**Psalm 22:25-31**

**A vow of thanksgiving**

Sunday

**John 15:9-17**

**Love one another**

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*

## 1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

### A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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MINISTRY  
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**MAY 2, 2021**

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Where True Charity and*

*Love abide*



## 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:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: 1 John 4:7-21.*

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial; it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—*all others*. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and owing God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced? *Pray: Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## SERVICE

*In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestoneministry.org](http://www.milestoneministry.org)*