



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

*"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)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**May 7, 2023**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Graduation Celebration 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 increase your 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. Please join us again soon!*

*(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**

**“Let All Things Now Living”  
“Lead Me, guide me”**

**ELW #881  
W&P #84**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

**Welcome Song:**

**“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”**

**ELW #377  
vv. 1,2&5**

**1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

**Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**2. Walking the way, Christ in the center  
telling the story to open our eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain***

**5. City of God, Easter forever,  
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels,  
sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise:**

**“Awesome God”**

**W&P #13**

**Our God is an awesome God,  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, pow'r, and love  
Our God is an awesome God!  
Our God is an awesome God!  
Our God is an awesome God!**

*Repeat*

## **\*Greeting**

The grace of our risen 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**

Almighty God,

**your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

### **First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>Look, he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<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: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**“Celtic Alleluia”**

**vv. 1 & Easter 3**

*Refrain:* **Alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**1. Speak, Lord, your servant is list'ning.  
Speak your words of wisdom,  
for the words you speak  
are everlasting life.**

**3. The stone which the builders rejected,  
becomes the cornerstone chosen.  
Praise the work of God  
for this marvel in our eyes.**

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.*

**\*Gospel: John 14:1-14**

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

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."  
<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

**Kid's Sermon:**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**PMA Bill Huelle**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**"Majesty"**

**W&P #94**

**Majesty, worship His majesty:  
unto Jesus be all glory,  
honor, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
flows from His throne  
unto His own; His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high  
the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify  
Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty:  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.  
*Repeat*  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.**

**\*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.**

## **Senior Recognition and Blessing**

**Recognition of Our Seniors**

**Angie Hinze**

**Blessing of Our Seniors**

**PMA Bill Huelle**

In John 15 Jesus says, "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. 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...As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments and abide in his love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

A unique way that God has given us to abide in him is through the Body of Christ we call the church. Our hope and prayer as a congregation is that you are able to see the importance of being a part of God's family; that you will seek out a community of faith to nurture you and strengthen you wherever you may go.

As we celebrate with you we also want to send you with our blessings; so parents if you would come forward now. And place your hand on your youth's head or shoulders and bless your youth using the blessing in your bulletin or on the screens.

**Parents: Child of God, as you graduate, we ask God's presence and power to be with you all the days of your life. May God, the Father, who brought you to this day, continue to strengthen and guide you as you continue on your life's journey. May Jesus Christ, our Lord, continue to clarify for you the meaning and purpose of your life and help you find increasing joy and fulfillment in His service. May the Holy Spirit assist you as you search for God's will in your life. Amen.**

**Graduates: Child of God, as I graduate, I ask God's presence and power to be with you all the days of your life. May God, the Father, who brought us to this day, continue to strengthen and guide you as you continue on your life's journey.**



**May Jesus Christ, our Lord, continue to clarify for you the meaning and purpose of your life and help you find increasing joy and fulfillment in His service. May the Holy Spirit assist you as you search for God's will in your life. Amen.**

Congregation will you please join me.

**We congratulate you as parents and graduate on this day. May God's grace and power go with you and may you know our prayers surround you as you begin this new chapter in your lives.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, we pray now for those graduating, praising you for their gifts and asking you for your continued blessing. Grant them patience in their struggles, hope for the future and wisdom in their decisions and confidence that you will guide them well. Help parents and others who share concern for the dangers and decisions that will be faced beyond their caring eyes. Reassure them where they have done their best and heal their regrets as they entrust their sons and daughters to your care. God of grace, we commend our graduating sisters and brothers to you. By your unceasing Spirit, may their baptismal light so shine before others that they may see their good works and glorify you in heaven and on earth. **Amen.**

## **Senior Slide Show**

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

**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.**

**Offering**

**Offertory: "You Are My All in All"**

**Choir**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Generous God,

**in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. 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 Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor, ending with... “now and forever. Amen.” The congregation responds by singing the refrain from “Here is Bread”)*

**“Here is Bread”**

**ELW #483**

**In this bread there is healing,  
in this cup is life forever.  
in this moment, by the Spirit.  
Christ is with us here.**

### **\*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 know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

### **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 Song:**

**“One Bread, One Body”**

**ELW #496**

*Refrain: One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all.*

**One cup of blessings which we bless.**

**And we, though many,  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain***

**2. Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord, of all. *Refrain***

**3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all. *Refrain***

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

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

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

### **\*Benediction**

The God of all, who raised ‡ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

**“The Trees of the Field”**

**W&P #138**

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field  
Will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands.  
The trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy.**

*Repeat*

**\*Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
Thanks be to God.**

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Marissa Wright, 5/8; Jodi Christeleit, 5/10; Shari Copsey 5/12; Virginia Pickett, 5/12

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

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Don Stahla** (Cardiac Issues—Virginia Pickett’s brother), **Marsha Bueide** (hospitalized), **Carolyn Jensen** (recovering from knee replacement surgery), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Susan Martin** (recovering from a fall), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Perry Crom** (health issues-nephew of Shirlee Schuldies), **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).



## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

**Trea Hess, Kierra Miller, Hunter Miller, Bailey Nikont,  
Nickie Todd and Alec Sibal**

**Jadie Rother and Carl Thorpe**



### 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.



## MAY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Oatmeal

**BACKPACKS:** Pudding Cups

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



SULLIVAN HILLS CAMP

### **CLCW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Sullivan Hills Camp**

This month we are asking your help in sending monetary support to Sullivan Hills Camp which serves campers each summer in Western Nebraska. The camp offers programs for grades 1-12, special needs families, confirmation and also provides a beautiful setting for retreats.

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.

### **JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (taco bar with all the fixings) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie at the church.



**Reminder: Scholarship Applications for  
2023-2024 are due in the church office  
June 1, 2023.**



## WORSHIP LEADERS

### This Sunday – May 7

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn  
Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

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

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Celebrate with  
the Graduates!!*

### Next Sunday – May 14

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Deb Brown &  
Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Merrick Walsh & Ben  
Moravec

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

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

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, May 7

#### **Graduation Celebration Sunday**

10 a.m. – Worship

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

### Monday, May 8

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Fellowship  
Hall

6 p.m. – Council

### Tuesday, May 9

12 p.m. – Sarah Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

### Wednesday, May 10

5:30 p.m. – JAM – End of Year  
Celebration

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### Saturday, May 13

5:30 p.m. – Worship

### Sunday, May 14

#### **Mother's Day**

10 a.m. – Worship

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

MAY 7, 2023  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Learning who God is through Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-23	The supremacy of Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Friday	John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:9 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, help us to see your reign of power and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, with this food we see your goodness. We thank you that you have made of us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people. Amen. (1 Peter 2:3 and 9)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's face shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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MAY 7, 2023



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

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*I Received the Living God*

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

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

- How would you describe God to someone?
- Where does your understanding of God come from?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read: John 14:1-14.*

John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." This foundational theme in the Gospel of John is reintroduced in John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Society describes God in categories like all powerful and all wise. In Jesus we see a God who deeply wants a relationship with us and therefore Jesus has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us. In Jesus we see the God who brings joy to a wedding, heals the sick, and gives sight to the blind. We also see the one who is the Good Shepherd, bends over to clean dirty feet, and goes to the cross to die for us. Like Philip, we will never fully grasp who Jesus is for us, but in Jesus we see the God who never gives up on us, even when we deny our Lord out of ignorance or fear. Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (v. 6). He takes truth to be more than facts but a relationship to God filled with love and mercy. That's the path to real life now and always.

*Discuss:* What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?  
*Pray:* Almighty and living God, may our lives point to your way, your truth and your life filled with grace and mercy through Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may know the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "a living stone" and Jesus' followers "the living stones" "to be built into a spiritual house." Gather some smooth stones. Paint a cross on a large one and names of family and friends on smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the large one in a visible place in your home. As you continue reading the gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. After reading, look at the stones and say: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!



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)