



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
(308) 632-8023
calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
November 14, 2021

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer Before Worship: God of power, you desire your servants to live in faith, not in fear. Keep our eyes trained on your word and our feet firmly on the path, walking in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.*

Gathering Music

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**ELW #257
vv. 1&7**

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**7. O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.**

Refrain

“Borning Cry”

ELW #732

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
2. "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."
3. "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."
4. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW #793

v. 1

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

Call to Worship

“Here I Am, Lord”

**ELW #574
v. 1**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

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

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

We gather as the baptized people of God in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

(Time for prayer and reflection)

Hymn

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

**ELW #592
v. 3**

**3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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**

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW #856

v. 1

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

***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**

Generous God,

you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

‡GOD’S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

Psalmody

“On Eagle’s Wings”

ELW #787

vv.1&3

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.**

Refrain

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

¹¹And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

**ELW #858
v. 1**

**1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

***Gospel: Mark 13:1-8**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished? ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Response after the gospel reading:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW #781

v. 1

**1. Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

Kids Sermon

Angie Hinze

Hymn

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW # 677

v. 1

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Sermon:

Pastor Sheryl

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

***Hymn**

“It Is Well with My Soul”

**ELW #785
v. 1**

**1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (*it is well*)
with my soul, (*with my soul,*)
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

**ELW #742
v. 1**

**1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!**

***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.**

Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**ELW #632
vv. 1-2**

**1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

**2. Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.**

DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS

Memorials given in Memory of Larry Janecek for:

Youth Scholarships for the National Youth Gathering and
Moving of the organ from the balcony to the front of the Sanctuary

Memorials given in Memory of Lillian Blehm for:

Cameras and other media equipment for the Live-Streaming of our worship
services.

Order of Blessing

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Today we seek God’s blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate these
memorials to the glory of God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Gracious God, giver of all good things, be with us now as we dedicate these memorial gifts to your glory.

Dedication of Youth Scholarships:

We give you thanks, O God, for the youth scholarships given in memory of Larry and for the lives that were touched through these scholarships and Larry's commitment to the youth and young adults of this church and the wider community. Grant us all faith to know your gracious purpose and be ever growing in our faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rededication of Organ:

May it please you, O Lord, to receive and bless this organ that we now rededicate to you. We thank you for Larry in whose memory it is dedicated. Let this organ, alone or in concert with other instruments and voices, be to all who worship here or with us online, a source of joy and inspiration and a reminder that we are to make a joyful noise to the Lord; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dedication of Live-Stream Media Equipment

Almighty God, who communicates your word to and through our lives in many forms, times and places, use the media equipment we now dedicate to you to spread the good news of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ throughout our communities and world.

As you spoke through your servant, Lillian, in whose name we dedicate this media equipment, continue to speak through us and to us so that all may hear your word of grace and power for their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

To the glory of God and the giver of all good gifts,

We dedicate these items.

To the memory of loved ones and with gratitude for each donor,

We dedicate these items.

May all who use them be united in joy, sustained in sorrow and enlivened for service, and bring us at last to the perfect worship of your heavenly banquet, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

v. 1

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

***Prayers of the Church:**

Each petition ends with:

Lord, in your mercy....**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

“Old Hundredth”

“Old 100th”

Rhonda Boettcher

arr. By Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

setting by Johann Christoph Bach (1642-1703)

***Offertory Hymn “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

ELW #884

Please Stand

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
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.

Communion Invitation

"This is the Feast"

p. 140
v. 1

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Hymns

"Let us Break Bread Together"

ELW #471
v. 1

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

“In the Garden”

v. 1

1. I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Chorus

And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW #638

v.1

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.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

ELW #608

v.1

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

Post-Communion Hymn: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

**ELW #543
v. 3**

3. “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

‡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 Hymns**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

**ELW #807
v. 1**

1. Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

“Let All Things Now Living”

**ELW #881
v. 1**

1. Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.

**God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

“This Is My Father’s World”

ELW #824

v. 1

**1. This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Roger Jensen, 11/15; Victoria Holub, 11/20; Austin Miller, 11/20

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

✝In Our Thoughts and Prayers✝

Prayers for healing: **Kathy Johnson** (back & leg issues), **Alice Braaten** (rehab), **Kathy Rahrs** (recovering from back surgery—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson’s cousin’s husband), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker’s great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers of comfort and peace: For the family and friends of **Patty** (Lonnie Miller’s sister), **Ray Blomenkamp** (Neal Blomenkamp’s father)

Prayers for: **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker’s granddaughter & husband).

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.)



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.



Please note: if you have been using the Give+ app for your donations, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app after Sept. 30th to make any future donations in this manner.

NOVEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Baking Supplies

BACKPACKS: Granola Bars

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

Our mission project for November is our **"THANKOFFERINGS."** Every day throughout the year, we have many things to be thankful for.

Following this tradition, November has been set aside to collect the Thankofferings from the women and men in our congregation. We ask for you to put your Thankofferings in an envelope and then the offering plates on any November Sunday.

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 (chili/cinnamon rolls) 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, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.



Christmas Treat Bags for December 19th!

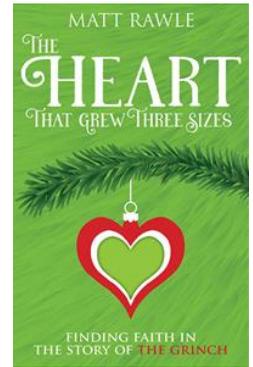


We need donations of candy and treats for the traditional treat bags for our children after the Christmas program in December! If you would like to pick up a bag of candy to go into the treat bags, you can bring it to church and leave it in Angie's office. Shirlie Schuldies will coordinate with all her other "elves" to make the bags for the children. Thank You!

NEW Pastor's Tuesday Evening Study starting Nov. 16th

The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes: Finding Faith in the story of the Grinch.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Pastor Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? Join Pastors Chris and Sheryl as we look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. This 4-week study will meet at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16th & 30th (*we will skip Thanksgiving week*) and Dec. 7th & 14th. If interested, sign up on the sheet outside the office and let us know if you need us to order you a study book or plan on downloading a copy to your e-reader.



Celebrate Generosity Event



Celebrate Generosity has moved. Next Sunday at 9:30 AM will be our next gathering. Come join in whether you are an adult or a youth, 4 or 84. We will celebrate our God-given gifts and abilities. God has gifted each of us as the body of Christ, come share and give thanks for that gift. See you next Sunday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – November 14

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Marti Wegelin
COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle
POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn
ACOLYTE: Ayden Tompkins
MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

Next Sunday – November 21

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub
LAY READER: Dennis Gorr
COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr
POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne
ACOLYTE: Ben Moravec
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh
PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 14
Memorial Dedications
10 a.m. – Worship – Hymn Sing

Monday, November 15
5 p.m. – Elders
6 p.m. – Stewards
6 p.m. – Worship & Music

Tuesday, November 16
8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary
12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary
1 p.m. – Quilting
7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 17
5:30 p.m. – JAM & EPIC Game Night
6 p.m. – Confirmation
6 p.m. – Outreach Committee
7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, November 20
9 a.m. – Trustees
5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, November 21
9:30 a.m. – Celebrate Generosity Event
10 a.m. – Worship

NOVEMBER 14, 2021
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Day and night, God is our protection.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:1-10	The signs of the end of the age
Monday	Daniel 12:1-3	The resurrection of the dead
Tuesday	Hebrews 10:11-25	A call to perseverance
Wednesday	Psalms 91	Assurance of God's protection
Thursday	Philippians 4:10-14	Paul gives thanks
Friday	2 Samuel 22:1-4	David's song of thanksgiving
Saturday	Psalms 16	A life centered on the Lord
Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of peace, when we experience scary times, help us to trust in you and remain dedicated to your word through Christ Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Meatime Prayer:

God of the harvest, we thank you for the fruit of the earth that feeds us and reminds us of your constant care during our mountain top highs and valley lows. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide your path into joy forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)



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NOVEMBER 14, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Hymn of Promise



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:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know needed protection.
- What do you do and who do you turn to when you feel you need to be protected?
- Psalm 16 gives praise to God for being our great protector. What does that mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:1-10.

The Gospel of Mark was written shortly after the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by Roman soldiers in 70 A.D. It is easy to imagine that the people wondered if all hope was gone following that jarring event. Had God forsaken the people once and for all? Was this the end of time? Was Christ coming back soon? During times of national or spiritual crisis, it is easy to wonder about such questions, follow after some conspiracy theory, or follow another voice that sounds like the second coming of Christ. Jesus says, in essence, do not be misled; do not make your own predictions about the end. Our task is simple: know in your highs and lows that you are loved and protected by God; give thanks for your neighbors and serve them with joy. Trust God and Christ's reign. During difficult times, how can you show your trust in God? **Pray:** God of the universe, when we experience personal or social disasters, help us to keep our eyes on you and speak with confidence the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

With the advent of social media, many false messages and hopes are offered as true. Such messaging and propaganda can raise fears and sow divisions among people. Serve your neighbor by resisting extreme messages and social anxiety. Speak words of trust in God that calm one's soul and offer hope and peace to others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 16:7 says, "bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me." When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with thoughts that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. This week, take time to read or listen to God's Word before you go to sleep. For children, use a storybook Bible. After reading, say this blessing: **May the Lord make you lie down in safety and may you sleep in peace.** (Psalm 4:8)



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