



First Sunday of Advent

"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 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Prayer Before Worship: Thank you, Holy One, for this new day to sing your praise and watch for signs of your kingdom. By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you and your children, that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign. In the name of Jesus, I 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‡

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 33: The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

(Light the Candle of Hope)

Someone’s shouting from the desert. Someone’s shouting from the sea.
Someone’s shouting from the mountain. Someone’s shouting from the valley.

Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King. (repeat)

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

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

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

(Time for reflection and self-examination)

Light of the world,

Your patience with us is never ending. You have shown us wonders, yet we are so often complacent. You have showered us with mercy, yet we withhold mercy from others. You have given us everything, and we act as though we were entitled all along. Forgive us these and all our secret sins. You know our hearts; we implore you to make us whole again. Amen.

As the world darkens, the light of Christ shines even brighter. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the forgiveness of sin and walk in the light of Christ. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God’s mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

***Glory to God:**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.
**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

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

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***Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

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

²⁵There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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:**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**ELW #257
vv. 1,2,4**

**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.**

**2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.**

Refrain

**4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

Refrain

†SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM†

Introduction and Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

Response by Congregation

People of God, do you promise to support Maeve and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.**

***Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Baptism

Laying on of Hands, Signing of Cross and Presentation of Candle

Prayer for the Parents

Congregational Welcome

Through Baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

Maeve, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

***Prayers of the Church:**

Each petition ends with:

Mighty God....**hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with:

...in the name of Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

***Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

"Emmanuel, God With Us"

Choir

***Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our hope. Amen.

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever, and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

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.)*

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

May the God of mercy keep you,
the Holy Spirit cheer you,
and ‡ Christ in glory greet you,
now and at the day of his coming.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

**ELW #244
vv. 1,2,4**

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2. The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.**

**4. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace, live in love,
and seek to be holy in all that you do.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Music: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress CCLI License #1825044, *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers:*Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907 ©Public Domain

‡In Our Thoughts and Prayers‡

Prayers for healing: **Jan Van Newkirk** (back surgery), **Maeve Singer** (medical issues—Nick & Lindsey Singer's 6 month old daughter), **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 the **Bruner's and Brester's**

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.)



Juanita Gibbs, 11/28; Donna Hessler, 11/30; Tammy Lutz, 12/2

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 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 to make any future donations in this manner.

DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Packaged Cookies

BACKPACKS: Applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

Our mission project for December is our **Angel Tree**. We are encouraging people to participate in the Angle Tree project by taking a name & purchasing gifts or making monetary donations to help make sure gifts are purchased for all the names on the Angel Tree. See Tidings for more detailed information.





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 (scalloped potatoes & ham) 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.

The Doves Program is looking for someone to deliver the supplies from Calvary Lutheran Church when needed to the Doves Center in Gering. Please contact the church office if interested! Thank you!



BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 11th from 9 am through 7 pm.** If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.

Interested in Becoming a Member of Calvary?

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, Dec 12th. Following worship, the Outreach Committee would like to invite everyone into the fellowship hall for a reception to welcome our new members. Please talk to either Pastors Chris or Sheryl if interested.



ANGEL TREE



The Angel Tree will be up the weekend after Thanksgiving. Paper ornaments will be on the tree with first name, age, and gift idea. Names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center. **Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th.** Please see the December Tidings for more information.

Coffee and Fellowship



Coffee and fellowship will be starting back up. 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.



Sound System Operator Needed!!

We are in need of 1 or 2 people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested, please talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or Jim Dorn.

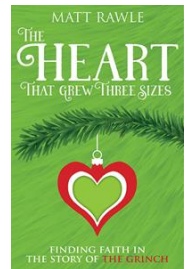
The graphic is a horizontal banner with a blue background on the left and a yellow background on the right. On the left, the text 'ELCA GOOD GIFTS' is written in white. On the right, the text 'How it works' is written in a white cursive font. Below this, there are three numbered steps: 1. 'Choose your gift.' with a piglet icon; 2. 'Get a card.' with a card icon; 3. 'Change lives.' with a globe icon and a small photo of a man and a child.

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.

Pastor's Tuesday Evening Study

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

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.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – November 28

USHERS: LaDonna Schmidt & Vicki Howell

LAY READER: Kathy Randall

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTE: Andrew Miller

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

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

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

Next Sunday – December 5

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

ACOLYTE: Brynlee Payne

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 28

10 a.m. – Worship

Tuesday, November 30

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 1

12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Friday, December 3

6 p.m. – Community Christian School
Christmas Concert in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 4

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, December 5

10 a.m. – Worship

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Abound in love for one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

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

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Thursday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Friday	Romans 13:8-10	Love for one another
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, as we await your coming again, give us faith and good courage to resist evil and to be at peace with all people. In your name we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Give us strength through this meal that we may show gratitude for all you have created and love towards one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God make you increase and abound in love for one another. (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
The King Shall Come



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 of something that has been challenging for you. What makes it a challenge?
 - Advent begins with a focus on Christ's second coming. Why is this important?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.

1 Thessalonians is likely the oldest New Testament writing we have. It ends with Paul addressing the church's concern about Christ's second coming (see 4:13-5:11), very fitting for the first week of Advent. Living in Thessalonica was a challenge. It was a Roman capital, filled with Roman powers and a religious setting very different from the Christian faith. It led to the persecution and suffering of Christians living there. Paul connects their lives of holiness and innocence to the power of Christ's return. All of this encourages a life "set apart"—that's what holiness means. Living with those who wish you harm and with other gods to worship, is truly a challenge, one that needs the power of Christ and his return to sustain us daily.

Discuss: What are the challenges you face as a person of the Christian faith?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, give us faith as we await your coming; that we may love all people as you love us now and always. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, is there something you can do to show God's abounding love to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is the First Sunday in Advent. Make or purchase a round Advent wreath to represent God's unending love. Place three blue (or purple candles) and one pink candle on it. Place a white one in the center. Decorate with greens to symbolize eternal life. Light one blue/purple candle. **Say:** We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, reminding us of the prophets who waited for the coming of Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come, and fulfill the promise. **Pray:** Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, and hope in your promise to return and make all things new through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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