



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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

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Scottsbluff, NE  
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[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**November 12, 2023**

## Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

**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

### Welcome and Announcements

#### **✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠**

### Opening Hymn:

**“My Lord, What a Morning”**

**ELW #438**

*Refrain: **My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.***

**1. You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**2. You will hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**3. You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Holy One,

**We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved,

we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **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 of justice and love,

**you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## ‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

### First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 70

Read Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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: Matthew 25:1-13**

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

<sup>1</sup>Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'  
<sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'  
<sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

<sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'  
<sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'  
<sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

**Kids Sermon:**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**Pastoral Candidate**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡**

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

**“Blessed Assurance”**

**ELW #638**

**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.**

**2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sigh;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain***

**\*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:*

Hear us, O God... **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

....through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

God of all goodness,  
**generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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**

There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**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**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ‡ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:**

**“When Peace like a River”**

**ELW #785  
vv. 1,3&4**

**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.*

**3. He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

**4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

**\*Dismissal**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**†

Prayers for healing: **David Stevens** (recovering), **Becky Martin** (recovering), **Fran Johnson** (recovering from surgery), **Elnora Sell** (recovering), **Alli Meyers** (Health Problems—Marissa Wright’s friend), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens’ nephew’s wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer**, **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering), **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs’ mother), **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).



Roger Jensen, 11/15

*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 **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



### NOVEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Baking Supplies

**BACKPACKS:** Granola Bars

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



### **CLCW OCTOBER MISSION PROJECT: Collection of Thankofferings**

The Calvary Quilters make quilts each Tuesday to send to needy countries once a year, via the Lutheran World Relief organization. The CLCW provides the hardworking quilters with a luncheon once or twice a year and contributes to the shipping costs for more than 300 quilts made annually. 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 (pancakes/sausage/fruit) 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.



The call committee and the church council are pleased to announce that we have a ministry candidate to bring before the congregation. The candidate has been invited to preside over our **10:00 church service Sunday, November 12, 2023**. Immediately following the service, we will gather for not only a time of fellowship but also to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions of this candidate. The following **Sunday, November 19, 2023, immediately following our 10:00 service**, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on whether to extend a call to this candidate. The call committee and the church council encourage all to attend both services!

## TODAY, November 12th

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt/Pay It Forward!  
We will venture out into the community to do good deeds and then share in a meal together! We will meet at 11:30am right after church!



## "Fall Festival" Drive

Calvary Lutheran Church invites you to join in a "Fall Festival" drive supported by the Social Ministry Committee during the month of November. As the days get colder and the wind picks up, many in our community simply struggle to stay warm and safe. In partnership with CAPWN, you are invited to bring personal hygiene items to worship during the weeks of November 5 - 20. There will be large boxes in the entrance of the sanctuary where you may drop off the following items: socks, stocking caps, gloves, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving razors, shaving cream. Join us in celebrating God's abundant generosity as we seek to bless our neighbors.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**PMA Bill Huelle**

### **This Sunday – November 12**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

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

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Ben Moravec & Rhyan Buckley

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

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

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** Joan Smith & Lynn Margheim!

### **Next Sunday – November 19**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Jack Martin

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Marissa Wright & Abby Newsom

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Jack & Max Judy

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jeff Van Patten

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

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, November 12**

10 a.m. – Worship with Pastoral Candidate

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship with Candidate

11:30 a.m. – EPIC

### **Monday, November 13**

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Calvary

6 p.m. – Council

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Beth Janecek's home

### **Tuesday, November 14**

1 p.m. – Quilting

### **Wednesday, November 15**

5:15 p.m. – Outreach

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Saturday, November 18**

9 a.m. – Trustees

5:30 p.m. – Worship

### **Sunday, November 19**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Meeting to vote on Candidate

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

NOVEMBER 12, 2023  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Worship that is pleasing to God.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Psalm 106:1-12	A confession of Israel's sins
Thursday	Isaiah 1:10-17	Justice is needed, not sacrifices
Friday	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	Treat everyone with justice
Saturday	Psalm 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, we thank you for your call for justice and mercy that gives hope to our lives and to the generations to come through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed, and let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who shows mercy on the poor deliver you from harm. (Psalm 70:5)



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NOVEMBER 12, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Canticle of the Turning*



**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:

- Why is care for those in need so important?
- What type of worship do you think pleases God? Explain.

### DEVOTIONS

**Read:** Amos 5:18-24.

Amos' prophetic words are not addressed to those who are indifferent or have actively rejected faith in God. His message is for those who worship God. He uses words of caution filled with danger and accusation. The worshipping community becomes shaken out of complacency. What God sees and smells and hears in worship is not pleasing. Worship is offered without concern for the needs of the poor (justice) and the well-being of the community (righteousness). Worship that is pleasing to God includes the daily life activity of people that shows compassion and delights in healthy relationships. Worship promotes a faithful way of life that is itself a form of worship and praise to God. It is good to know that the power of God's justice is like a flood of water, a deluge, and God's righteousness is constant like a stream that never stops flowing.

*Discuss:* How does worship lead you to acts of compassion that serve the needs of others?

*Pray:* God of justice and mercy, may our worship life reflect your compassion for the needy and our need for strong and life-giving relationships through Christ Jesus 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 to enable them to have life-giving relationships?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids who did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. Light a candle to symbolize the light of Jesus' love shining. While the candle is burning write a list of ways you can do God's work every day. *Pray:* Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen



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)

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)