



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
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calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth 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

**“The Church Song”
“Spirit Song”**

**W&P #135
BOB**

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Welcome Song:

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

ELW #890

**1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.**

Refrain: **Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.**

**2. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Refrain***

**3. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on. *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.**

Song of Praise:

"Emmanuel"

W&P #36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel. *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**

Righteous God,

our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:** **"Open our eyes, Lord"** **W&P #113**

**Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

***Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

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

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

Kid's Sermon:

Val Rahrs

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

†WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD†

***Song of the Day:**

"In The Morning"

W&P #75

**1. In the morning we shall see the glory of the Lord;
rise and sing God's praises!**

**In the morning we shall see our hope and faith restored
like the sun God raises
in the morning, in the morning.**

**2. In the evening we have said, "If only day would come,
joy would spring from sorrow."**

**God has kept us through the night, now shadows will succumb
to the new tomorrow
in the morning. in the morning.**

**3. In its cycle daylight dawns and nighttime darkness parts.
Day from day is severed
till the Daystar of the morning rises in our hearts.
Day will dawn forever
in the morning, in the morning.**

***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**

ELW #178

(Sung Prayer Response)

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

***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.)

Distribution Song:

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW #715

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain: Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

- 4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

- 5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

***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 Song:**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

**ELW #815
vv. 1&2**

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain: **In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path.
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

***Dismissal**

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

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **David Stevens** (recovering), **Becky Martin** (recovering), **Fran Johnson** (recovering from surgery), **Elnora Sell** (health issues), **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).



Victoria Holub, 11/20; Austin Miller, 11/20; David Kleensang, 11/21;
Jon Carlson, 11/22; Hank Rahmig, 11/23; Twila Aschenbrenner, 11/25;
Shane Cochran, 11/26

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.



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.

No JAM this week.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



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!

"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.



ANGEL TREE



The Angel Tree will be up the weekend of December 3rd. Paper ornaments will be on the tree with first name, age, and gift ideas. Names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center. **Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th.** Please see the December Tidings for more information.

BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 9th from 9 am through 6 pm.** If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.



WORSHIP LEADERS

PMA Bill Huelle

This 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!*

Next Sunday – November 26

USHERS: Jack Martin

LAY READER: Mary Jo Huelle

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Chris Thomas & Tracy Steele

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTES: Kippen & Jacey Cochran

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 19

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Meeting to vote on Candidate

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, November 20

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Stewards

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

Tuesday, November 21

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, November 22

NO JAM

NO Confirmation

NO Choir Practice

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Saturday, November 25

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, November 26

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

NOVEMBER 19, 2023
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+
faith
home

Jesus calls us to action.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing the word
Thursday	James 2:14-26	Faith without works is dead
Friday	1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalms 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" Matthew 25:23 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, you know our frailty and limitations. Give us faith and courage to act with boldness for the sake of your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Meatime Prayer:

For this food that nourishes us, for the people that support us, and for your goodness that renews us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you experience the joy of your God through Christ our Lord.



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NOVEMBER 19, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Rise Up, O Saints of God!

taking+
faith
home

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:

- What are some thoughts, principles, and beliefs that guide your daily life?
- How does the Christian faith help guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus' parables, stories that teach a religious lesson, are powerful. They have a message for us. They get into our heads and make us think. In this reading, is God like the master who is *"a harsh man, reaping where [he] did not sow"* (v. 24)? Of course not. Parables are not necessarily stories that place God as one character and us as another. Just as the actions of the master lead to a definite action by the slave, so our God leads us to definite action. Followers of Jesus are gifted with valued contributions for the work of God's kingdom. God's grace and mercy blesses people through our actions. So act, not for personal benefit but for the joy of living in the grace of God. Christianity is not meant to be simply a philosophy that we think about but a life we experience with others and with God. It includes a *"wise heart"* (Psalm 90:12) that gives attention to what matters and what brings kindness and joy to the world.

Discuss: What gifts and opportunities has God given you to care for others and give witness to the love of God in Christ?

Pray: God of abundance, your judgments are true and full of compassion for all that you create. Give us wise hearts to give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ. 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 with acts of kindness that reflect the abundant love of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul writes *"encourage one another and build each other up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Think or talk about ways you can be affirming and encouraging to others. Name one person in particular and write a note to them to tell them a gift you have recognized in them, what you appreciate about them, and give words of encouragement to them. End the note with a blessing: Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8)



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