



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.
October 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer Before Worship: Holy God, give us generous and loving hearts, eyes to see the splendor of your reign and ears to hear the truth of your Word, that we may live in truth and honor you through the transformation of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.)

* 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✠

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

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

We gather together, whether in-person or online, as the baptized people of God in the name of the Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Whatever good we may have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ. Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing compared to the grace of God. With faith in Christ's righteousness and confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin in the presence of one another and of God.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs and wants before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, forgive our sins, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in 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**

Faithful God,

You desire faithful followers who produce not just words, but the fruits of your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Forgive us, renew us and restore us so that we may be the people of your vineyard bearing good fruit and truly making a difference in our world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

†GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US†

First Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ, ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on

faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15

Read Responsively

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

***Gospel Verse**

**Alleluia. Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you
to go and bear fruit that will last. Alleluia.**

(spoken)

(John 15:16)

***Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

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

³³Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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:**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

**ELW #654
vv. 1&5**

**1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**5. Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.**

***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:

Lord in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

....in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

***Offering Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†HOLY COMMUNION†

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

***The 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, for the gifts of God are ready for the people of God.

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 one station in the front of the church with the
pulpit side of the church being dismissed first.*

*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

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

‡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.**

***Hymn:**

“Jesus Loves Me”

**ELW #595
vv. 1&3**

**1. Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

Refrain

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

**3. Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.**

Refrain

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as Christ loves you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Music: The Church's One Foundation: Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900 Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876 ©Public Domain; **Jesus Loves Me:** Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt., ©Public Domain



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 **Give+Church**
App on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jennifer Sibal, 10/4; Emma Foote, 10/5; Linda Lojka, 10/5;
George Schlothauer, 10/6; Leah Nikont, 10/7; Gail Koenig, 10/8;
Kurt Nikont, 10/9; Janet Miller, 10/9; Willard Rusch, 10/9; Reuben Gorr, 10/9

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

✝In Our Thoughts and Prayers✝

Prayers for healing: **Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for our church, community, nation and world: *in this time of Covid-19, fires, natural disasters and general unsettledness.*

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA OCTOBER MISSION
PROJECT:
CatPack and PupPack program**

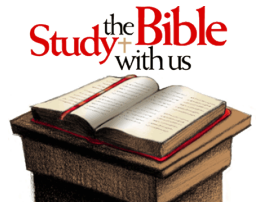
OCTOBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: canned veggies
BACKPACKS: oatmeal
Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.
Thanks for your generosity.



Pastors' Tuesday Evening Study begins Oct. 6th @ 7 p.m.

“Vindicating the Vixens” is the study book for this fall’s Tuesday evening study. This book takes a deep look at several of the women in the Bible and challenges how we often interpret their stories. Interested in the study but would prefer to Zoom-in? Let us know and we’ll send you the Zoom link. Plan now to join us!



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

October 7 @ Noon

Outdoor BBQ in the front lawn at the church! **Bring a lawn chair** and join us for hamburgers, chips, and root beer floats! (weather permitting) Angie will share a devotion and we will just sit back and enjoy some fellowship.



JAM will be on Wednesdays!

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (hot dogs/chips/fruit) at 6 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7:30 p.m. We will be practicing social distancing, and masks are encouraged, but not required. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.

Our next EPIC meeting will be October 11th!

Our middle school/high school youth group is for kids in 7th-12th grade. We will be having a Movie Night at the Hinze’s! Join us for dinner at 5:30pm, Bible study, and then we will watch an outdoor movie (weather permitting). Bring your own blanket! Our address is 615 Valley View Drive in Scottsbluff.





Mark Your Calendars: 2020 CROP Walk

The 2020 CROP Walk will be on Sunday, Oct. 11th @ 2 p.m. starting at the parking lot on the Pathway at the back of the zoo. You may call Jack Martin at (308)765-1648 to sign you up as a walker, or help you become a sponsor. If the weather is wet and miserable that day, the walk will be canceled, and walkers will be asked to walk another day or to go out to the mall and do a few laps inside.

October is
Pastor Appreciation
Month



Plan now to join us on October 11th & October 18th to say thank you to Pastors Chris and Sheryl. ALSO, since we are now in Phase 4, (concerning Covid-19) we can finally hold our 'Thank You' reception for Mary Jo Huelle who graciously served for a year as our Interim Office Manager. Her reception will be October 11th following worship. Please join the Elders and Council, in the Fellowship Hall on these 2 Sundays to say 'Thank You' to our Pastors and Mary Jo. Cake and coffee will be provided.



Lutheran Disaster Response Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Disaster Response



Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100% of what you donate will go for disaster response!



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Thrivent Financial

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hundreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community. For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to:

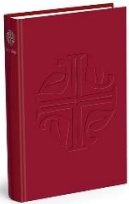
<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or talk to your Thrivent agent.



Hymnal Available to Borrow

Do you miss being able to follow along with the music when we sing a hymn or song during worship? Hymnals are available to borrow for those who wish one.

We only ask, per Governor Ricketts health directives if worshipping with us in person, that you bring it with you to worship and take it home with you after, rather than leaving it in the pew. Want to borrow a hymnal talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or one of the ushers.



Are YOU using the gift's God gave you?

THESE TEAMS NEED YOU!

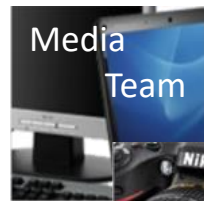
Our Livestream worship is up and running and we are so thankful to those who have made a commitment to our Media and Audio Teams who make the Livestream happen.

However, we are in need of a couple more people

for both our Media Team and Audio Team (these are separate jobs). If interested in serving in this way, please talk to Pastors Sheryl or Chris or Dennis Gorr.



Audio Team



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – October 4

USHERS: Dennis & Barb Gorr

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

MEDIA: Colter Burkey

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,
Tracy Steele

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Gail Brufflat

Next Sunday – October 11

USHERS: Vicki Howell & LaDonna Schmidt

LAY READER: Susan Martin

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Carmen
Kleager, Shelly Koehler, Jessica Laughlin

PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 4

10 a.m. – In-Person & Online Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

Monday, October 5

11:30 a.m. – Exec. Comm.

7 p.m. – Hannah's Circle @ Calvary's
Education Wing

Tuesday, October 6

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

7:30 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

Wednesday, October 7

10 a.m. – Ruth Circle @ Calvary

12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon

6 p.m. – JAM

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, October 10

5:30 p.m. – In-Person Worship

Sunday, October 11

10 a.m. – In-Person & Online Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through
Communion

OCTOBER 4, 2020
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We want to know Christ Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-20	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Psalms 19	The wonders of God
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death.
Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

OCTOBER 4, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come and Fill Our Hearts



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:

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbearable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation?
Pray: Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Grapes and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. *Pray:* Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.



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