



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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

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Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**October 1, 2023**

## **Eighteenth 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 desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Guest minister today is Dr. Charles Richardson of Scottsbluff who is filling in for PMA Huelle who is in Kimball this Sunday.

**Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us today,  
we are glad to have you with us.

*(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:**

**“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

**ELW #666  
vv. 1,2&4**

**1. What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**2. When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,**

when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

4. And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing God's love for me,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

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

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

### **\*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**

God of love, giver of life,

**you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

#### **First reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 25:1-9

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

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

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

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

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

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

## Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in  
the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind,  
having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish  
ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of  
you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be  
in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,  
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and  
trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for  
his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Verse**

**Page 142**

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

**\*Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

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

<sup>23</sup>When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

<sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

**Kids Sermon:**

**Jack Martin**

**Sermon:**

**Dr. Charles Richardson**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡**

**Hymn of the Day:**

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**ELW #807  
vv.1&3**

- 1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.**

**\*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:*

Merciful God,,... **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

.... trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**“Evidence of Grace”**

**Choir**

**\*Offering Prayer**

God of power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**



## **\*Thanksgiving for the Word**

ELW pg 220

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

## **\*Benediction**

The God of glory, ‡ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:**

**“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing ”**

**ELW #545**

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.
  
2. Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.
  
3. Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. © Public Domain; **Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing:** Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.;  
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt. ©Public Domain

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers+

Prayers for healing: **Elnora Sell** (recovering), **Alli Meyers** (Health Problems—Marissa Wright's friend), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Brenda & kids**, **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens' nephew's wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **Marsha Bueide** (recovering), **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).



Macy Schlothauer, 10/3; Katie Newton, 10/3; Becky Martin, 10/3;  
Jennifer Sibal, 10/4; Emma Foote, 10/4; Linda Lojka, 10/5;  
George Schlothauer, 10/6; Leah Nikont, 10/7; Gail Koenig, 10/8

*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.



### OCTOBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Canned Veggies

**BACKPACKS:** Oatmeal

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



# CLCW OCTOBER MISSION PROJECT: JAM, EPIC & OWLS Programs

JAM Program is for K thru 5th graders and meets Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7 p.m. @ the Fellowship Hall; includes dinner and fun, faith-filled activities. EPIC Program is for 6th - 12th graders, usually meets twice a month, and includes a fun activity, devotions, and meal. Older Wiser Lutherans, (OWLS), meets the second Wednesday each month, at 12:00 noon in Calvary's fellowship hall – freewill donations. A meal, special speaker or activity, and devotion are shared.



## **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 (taco salad/fruit/dessert) 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.



Please join the Elders and Council, in the Fellowship Hall on October 15th to say 'Thank You' to PMA Bill Huelle. Cake and coffee will be provided.

## **Pastor Spomer to Be Honored**

On October 23, Pastor Larry (and Linda) Spomer will be honored for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. They will be recognized at the Partners in Ministry Banquet to be held as part of the Fall Leadership Gathering in Kearney, NE.

We encourage the members of Calvary to help celebrate this special anniversary. Included is the contact information for the Spomers so you may easily reach out to honor them and this milestone.

Pastor Larry and Linda Spomer  
Legacy Estates  
7200 Van Dorn St., Apt. 309  
Lincoln, NE 68506-3724  
402.937.7771  
landspomer@gmail.com

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### This Sunday – October 1

**Dr. Charles Richardson**

**USHERS:** Jack & Becky Martin

**LAY READER:** Marti Wegelin

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Merrick Walsh & Rhyan Buckley

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

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

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

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

### Next Sunday – October 8

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

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

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Jack & Max Judy

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

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

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, October 1

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

### Tuesday, October 3

1 p.m. – Quilting

### Wednesday, October 4

5:30 p.m. – JAM

**NO** Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir

### Saturday, October 7

5:30 p.m. – Worship

### Sunday, October 8

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

2 p.m. – CROP Walk

OCTOBER 1, 2023  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



taking+  
faith  
home

*Jesus' humble obedience brings hope for all people.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God's ways are fair
Tuesday	Philippians 2:1-13	Christ shows us humility
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-8	Service well-pleasing to God
Thursday	Exodus 18:13-27	Jethro's advice
Friday	John 13:12-20	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-9	Prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2:8-9 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of the nations, you rule with steadfast love and mercy, help us to recognize our need for you and to worship you alone through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may this food strengthen us in body and soul that we may desire your good pleasure and act in ways that serve others in love. Amen. (Philippians 2:13)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the humility of our Lord Jesus Christ give you strength and courage.



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

OCTOBER 1, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Send Me, Jesus*



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:

- When is a time you questioned someone's actions in government, school, or other organization?
- How does Jesus' leadership differ from other leaders?

**DEVOTIONS**

Read: Matthew 21:23-32.

The chief priests and elders are intended to be leaders of the Jewish people. Jesus challenges their authority and leadership by wanting them to make a commitment—*pro* or *con*—regarding John the Baptist. They are not able to do that because they do not truly represent the people who supported John. These leaders are actually servants of Rome, the occupation force in Judea. Their wealth and power are at the pleasure of Rome, not the people of Judea. The leaders have a difficult task to balance between worshipping God and an allegiance to Rome. It is reminiscent of Jesus saying that one cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). The authority Jesus serves is only God's kingdom. In words and actions, Jesus is the obedient Son who triumphs over all other authorities on earth. It is an obedience that will lead to Jesus' death at the hands of those loyal to Rome but will bring hope for all people burdened by powers of fear and death.

Discuss: How does Jesus' authority and obedience to serve only God's kingdom make a difference for all people?

Pray: Almighty God, we thank you for Jesus' obedience to your power of grace and mercy so that sinners and tax collectors enter into your kingdom through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help someone who feels weighed down by the burdens of life?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves." Name this "Humility Week" in your household. Secretly decide on one act of service you (and others) can perform that will show concern for the interests of others. If you live alone, find someone outside your home to do this with. At the end of the week, think or talk about your acts of "secret service" and what it felt like to show concern for others.



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)