



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

*“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”*

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship  
10:00 a.m.  
October 30, 2022**

## Reformation Sunday

**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.

**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.

Today all organ music for prelude, postlude, distribution, and contemplative hymns were written during the Reformation accredited to Martin Luther (1483-1546). In 1527 Luther wrote "A Mighty Fortress" which is known as the battle hymn of the Reformation.

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

#### +WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS+

#### Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 46)

"Be still and know that I am God".

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

"Be still and know that I am."

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

"Be still and know."

**Therefore we will not fear for the Lord of hosts is with us.**

"Be still."

(a moment of silence)

\*Opening Hymn:

**"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

**ELW #504**

**1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.**

The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

**2. No strength of ours can match his might!**

We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

**3. Though hordes of devils fill the land**

all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

**4. God's Word forever shall abide,**

no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrench'd away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

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

Marked with the cross of Christ in baptism, we gather to worship in the name of the Father and of the  $\pm$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Blessing of Quilts

*Carol Bosshardt, Deb Brown, Gail Bruflat, Marsha Bueide, Audrey Harvey,  
Vicki Howell, Mary Jo Huelle, Barb Jensen, Fran Johnson, LuVerne Knoedler,  
Linda Lojka, Lynn Margheim, Kathy Randall, Vicki Schmidt, Elnora Sell,  
Joan Smith, Penny Stevens, Marti Wegelin*

Recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ, we give thanks for the variety of gifts that made these quilts possible: the donations of material gifts as well as the gift of time and talent to sew and put the quilts together. Now we offer the fruits of our labors to you, O Lord.

**We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each is sent, making it more than just a piece of material—but making each one we have created an expression of your love. We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.**

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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**

Merciful God,

**gracious and benevolent, through your Son you invite all the world to a meal of mercy. Grant that we may eagerly follow his call, and bring us with all your saints into your life of justice and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

**First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD,  
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!

<sup>11</sup>What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams  
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
or of lambs, or of goats.

<sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me,  
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

<sup>13</sup>bringing offerings is futile;  
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation —  
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

<sup>14</sup>Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
my soul hates;  
they have become a burden to me,  
I am weary of bearing them.

<sup>15</sup>When you stretch out your hands,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers,  
I will not listen;  
your hands are full of blood.

<sup>16</sup>Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings  
from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
<sup>17</sup>learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.

<sup>18</sup>Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

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

### **Psalm 32:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of  
my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

## **Epistle Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup>Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

<sup>11</sup>To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, <sup>12</sup>so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Luke 19:1-10**

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

<sup>1</sup>He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

**Kids Sermon**

**Pastor Brett**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Brett**

(*Silence for Reflection and Meditation.*)

**+WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD+**

\*Hymn of the Day:

"The Church's One Foundation"

ELW #654  
vv. 1,2&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.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

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:** (Luther's Explanation to the Second Article of the Creed)

With the whole church, let us profess our faith.

**I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.**

**At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil—not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and ruled eternally. This is most certainly true.**

### **DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS**

**Pentecost/Reformation Banners** given in Memory of:

Alice Shriver

**Organ Bench** given in Memory of:

Alice Shriver

**Table & Chairs** given in Memory of:

Merna Bowman, Art Hamburger, Wanda Quinn, Larry Janacek, Geri Bartel, Jean Hamburger, Lila Birch, Joyce Hillman-Kortum, Betty Madison, Jay Judd, Dorothy High, Rueben Gorr, Ronn Schmidt and Miriam Brown

### **Order of Blessing**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate these memorials to the glory of God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;**

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;**  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.  
**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;**  
**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Gracious God, giver of all good things, be with us now as dedicate these memorial gifts to your glory.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Let us pray....Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. Your gifts are many and in wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now as we dedicate these Memorial Gifts named before you to your praise and honor. Give us joy in all your gifts and grant that these gifts may be used to glorify and worship your name. Lastly, grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

To the glory of God and the giver of all good gifts,  
**We dedicate these items.**

To the memory of loved ones and with gratitude for each donor,  
**We dedicate these items.**

May all who use them be united in joy, sustained in sorrow and enlivened for service, and bring us at last to the perfect worship of your heavenly banquet, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*  
Hear us, O God....**your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude with:*  
...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

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

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

### **“We Believe”**

**Choir**

### **\*Offering Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts, let us pray...Gracious God,  
**in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet  
of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ,  
who sets a table for all. 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**

Christ invites you to this table.  
Come, taste and see.

## **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 Music**

**Rhonda Boettcher**

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **†WE DEPART TO SERVE†**

### **\*Benediction**

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Amen.**

*(Sunday School youth are invited to go to Sunday School  
during the singing of the closing hymn.)*

**Sending Hymn:**

**“Faith of Our Fathers”**

**ELW #812**

1. Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.

*Refrain: Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.*

**2. The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,  
were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Refrain**

**3. Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
by saving word and faithful life. Refrain**

#### \*Dismissal

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Postlude

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## +In Our Thoughts and Prayers+

Prayers for healing: **Ruth Harris, Randy Schafer** (recovering from stroke), **Cindy Cole** (recovering from surgery—Carolyn Jensen’s sister), **Marti Wegelin, Joyce** (severe swelling in feet—Susan Martin’s cousin), **Katie Hess** (car accident—Angela Bonow’s daughter & Jim & Andi Dorn’s granddaughter), **Mel Knoedler** (recovering), **Mary Jane Brown** (stroke—Deb Brown’s mother-in-law), **Becky Michael** (stage 1 breast cancer), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Kevin Feil** (sepsis & cancer—Lindsey Singer & Melissa Guerrero’s father), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law), **Mary Jo Haack** (Becky Martin’s mother).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson), **B.J. Carr** (deployed to Poland—Dee Brady’s son-in-law).



Joan Smith, 10/31; Bailey Nikont, 11/3; Marsha Bueide, 11/3;  
Max Schlothauer, 11/4; Larry Blehm, 11/4; Katlynn Hess, 11/5

*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.

### Coffee and Fellowship

We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.



### **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 (deli sandwiches/chips/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.

## **Scholarship Renewal**

Reminder for Scholarship applications for second semester 2022-2023 are due at the church office by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022



### OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Wednesday, November 2nd @ noon

Attitude of Gratitude! Join us for a meal and then we will thank our quilters before they pack up over 300 quilts to be shipped overseas! We will serve scalloped potatoes and ham/green beans/bread/dessert.



Western Nebraska Community College's Collegiate Chorale and Varsity Vocalise would like to invite you to their fall concert "Then Sings My Soul" on **November 4th at 7:00 pm.** Tickets for that are \$8 for students and seniors and \$10 for general admission. Come enjoy a concert full of spirituality and love!





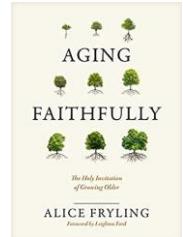
## A Holiday "Spa-tacular" Coffee Hour!



Come join us on November 5th at 9:00 am for a fall coffee hour and spa treatment for your face and/or hands! We want to help you get ready for the holidays! Hosted by Angie Hinze and Val Rahrs. Please contact the church office if you are planning to attend, so Val can make preparations.

### **NEW Sunday Morning Study starting November 6th**

You are invited to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM from November 6 - December 4 as we go through "Aging Faithfully" by Alice Fryling. As many at Calvary Lutheran enter later seasons of life, questions of life and faith take on new meaning. Aging faithfully doesn't 'just happen,' but there are wise guides who have modelled the way into this uncharted land. The group will be facilitated by Pastor Brett.



**If interested, please sign up on the sheet outside the office so we can make sure to have enough study books.**



Calvary Lutheran Church invites you to join in a "Fall Festival" drive supported by the Worship 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 6 - 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

**Pastor Brett Vander Berg**

**This Sunday – October 30**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Bill Huelle

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Marissa Wright,

Abby Newsom

**POWERPOINT:** Angela Bonow

**ACOLYTES:** Alli Baer & Clare Schlothauer

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

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

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** Kent & Dawn  
Holub

**Next Sunday – November 6**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn

Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Ayden Tompkins & Micaela Hess

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Trea Hess

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

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, October 30**

**Reformation Sunday**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in  
Fellowship Hall

**Monday, October 31**

**Happy Halloween**

**Tuesday, November 1**

Noon – Women's Study

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, November 2**

12 p.m. – OWLs Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, November 5**

9 a.m. – “Spa-tacular” Coffee Hour

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, November 6**

**All Saints Sunday**

9 a.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in  
Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. – EPIC Movie & Nacho Bar

**Daylight Savings Ends**

OCTOBER 30, 2022

# taking faith home

God's mercy frees us to care for others.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Isaiah 1:10-18	Jesus visits Zacchaeus
Monday	2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12	God will relieve their troubles	Justice is needed, not sacrifice
Tuesday	Exodus 34:1-9	Moses worships the Lord	Asking for help against enemies
Wednesday	Psalm 86:8-17	Paul gives thanks	The joy of forgiveness
Thursday	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	The joy of forgiveness	Jesus speaks of the resurrection
Friday	Psalm 32:1-7		
Saturday	Luke 20:27-38		
Sunday			

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.*

Isaiah 1:16-17 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and mercy, free us of self-centeredness that we may be freed to care for others in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you blessed Zacchaeus by joining him at his table, thank you for blessing us with your presence at this meal today. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bless you with the joy of a forgiven life. (Psalm 32:1)



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OCTOBER 30, 2022

# 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:

- Is caring for others, or helping someone in need easy or difficult for you? Explain.
- How does having a loving and forgiving God free you to care for others?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: Isaiah 1:10-18.*

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a religious life that pleases God. We are to worship and praise God with a merciful heart. What pleases God is a faith-filled life where people acknowledge their broken lives, seek forgiveness (psalm 32:1-7), and do acts of mercy. For example: aiding those who are beaten down, caring for orphans, and being an advocate for widows or others in society. The way of life desired by God is not complicated: acknowledge our need for God, confess our brokenness, and serve those in need. This is a message needed in Isaiah's time and also needs to be known in the world today.

*Discuss: In what ways have you been tempted to place your own needs before the needs of others?*

*Pray: Dear God, give us a heart that acknowledges our need for you and seeks to do your will of love and mercy for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVICE



*Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you care for others?*

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

*Jesus was a guest at the house of Zacchaeus and brought salvation to his home (Luke 19:5-9).*

*As a sign and reminder of Christ's presence in your home, set an extra place at your table this week. While you are eating, think or talk about what it means for Jesus to be part of your life. When you finish, pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for your presence at this table and in our lives. Bless this home with your salvation. Amen.*