



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.
September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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 Christ, We Do All Adore Thee -DuBois 1867
 Russian Easter - N. Rimsky-Korsakov 1887
 Arioso - G.F. Handel 1699
 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Isaac Watts 1707
 Amazing Grace -W. Walker 1835
 A Mighty Fortress - Martin Luther 1527

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Opening Hymn: **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"** **ELW #413**

**1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***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 Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***This is the Feast of Victory**

Page 140 vv. 1, 3

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain.***

**3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain.***

***Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God,

merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-13

**⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

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

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Kids Sermon

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Hymn of the Day:**

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW #838

**1. Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2. Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3. Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

**4. Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

***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 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow - L. Bourgeois 1550

***Offertory 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.**

†HOLY COMMUNION†

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

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy.....**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

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.)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.**

Distribution Music:

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Retirement Blessing

‡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:**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

ELW #840

**1. Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**2. Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,**

and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude

Ode To Joy - L. van Beethoven 1824

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **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** (healing/pain from broken back), **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).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Clare Schlothauer, 9/19; Austin Martin, 9/21; Ryan Foote, 9/21; Merrick Walsh, 9/23; Ayden Tompkins, 9/23; Rhonda Boettcher, 9/24; Shirley Blehm, 9/24

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.



SEPTEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Soups

BACKPACKS: Small cereal

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



CLCW SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT: D.O.V.E.S.

Domestic violence is a constant concern in our local communities. Scottsbluff/Gering provides access to a 24 hour crisis hotline and a shelter, where those trying to escape abuse may find refuge. The shelter is always grateful for cash donations to help people set up new households. Some needed supplies: Non-perishable foods, brooms, mops, buckets, paper towels, and sponges. Other items needed: dishes, pots/pans, silverware, small knives, can openers, potato peelers, stirring spoons, etc., toys, books, puzzles for the kids, sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair brush, combs, shaving cream, nail clippers, nail files, and bodywash. **No clothing, please.** Donations may be placed in the tan "Designated Giving" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.



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 (french bread pizza/salad/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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

This Sunday – September 17

PMA Bill Huelle

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey

LAY READER: Marissa Wright

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen

COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn

Margheim

POWERPOINT: Mary Jo Huelle

ACOLYTES: Kippen Conchran & Ben

Moravec

MEDIA: Chris Jensen

AUDIO: Jim Dorn

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

Next Sunday – September 24

USHERS: Deb Brown & Vicki Howell

LAY READER: Shari Copsey

HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin

COMMUNION ASSTS: Becky Martin &

Abby Newsom

POWERPOINT: Shawna Payne

ACOLYTES: DaKota Newsom & Brynlee

Payne

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

AUDIO: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette

Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie

Walsh

PIANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 17

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Rhonda's Retirement in
Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 18

5 p.m. – Elder's

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

6 p.m. – Stewards

Tuesday, September 19

12 p.m. – Sarah Circle

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, September 20

5:30 p.m. – JAM

5:30 p.m. – Social Ministry

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir

Saturday, September 23

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, September 24

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is merciful and gracious, full of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge one another
Wednesday	2 John 1:1-6	Truth and love
Thursday	Lamentations 3:18-24	There is still hope
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-11	Do all you can to show God's love
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy and grace, give us hearts full of compassion, ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us through Christ Jesus, who died that we may live. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for this food that you give to us and to all. Help us to share your goodness and mercy with others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of mercy and grace who sustains you, give you joy.



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

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

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:

- How do you respond when you are in conflict with a particular person or group?
- Jesus sets us free to love others. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 14:1-12.

The world is divided in many ways. Countries are divided into parties and loyalties. Families can be divided by strong and diverse views. Even congregations can be divided by different viewpoints. Paul gives us a word that we need to hear today. We are to keep the main thing the main thing, and that is this: Christ died to be the Lord of all! Therefore, why pass judgment and despise those for whom Christ died? As the saying goes, "When you look into the eyes of another, you are looking at someone God loves." Be careful not to judge and condemn. As Psalm 103:8 reminds us, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Our God who is slow to anger should be a strong caution to us not to be quick to judge. Whether it is over diet, piety, political or economic convictions, our judgments will all pass away, but God's judgment is eternal, and that judgment is most clearly seen from the cross of Christ. Jesus died for us that we may be set free to love others, in spite of our differences.

Discuss: What relationship do you have with someone where you could use a kinder word to reconcile that relationship through Christ our Lord?

Pray: Almighty and living God, help us to see beyond our self-righteous judgments of others and to receive your forgiveness with joy and gladness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, who in your life can you reach out to with a word or action that expresses forgiveness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think or talk about a time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and how it may have changed your relationship.

Pray: Dear Lord, help me to open my heart and mind to know when to forgive and when to ask for forgiveness for my words or actions towards another. In Jesus' name, amen.



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