



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 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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	"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" "Christ, Be Our Light"	ELW #608 ELW #715
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Welcome and Announcements

†WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS†

Welcome Song:	"Gather Us In"	ELW #532
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- 1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
- 2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

***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.**

Song of Praise:

“He has made me glad”

W&P #54

**I will enter His gates
With thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day
That the Lord has made
I will rejoice
For He has made me glad**

Refrain: **He has made me glad
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad
He has made me glad
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad**

***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**

Almighty and eternal God,
you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**²Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

**⁴One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

“Open our eyes, Lord”

W&P #113

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

***Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

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

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Kid's Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

“Great is the Lord”

W&P #53

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just,
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true,
by his mercy he proves he is love.**

**Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, Now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord!
Great is the Lord!**

**Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord, I lift up my voice,
I lift up my voice: Great are you, Lord!
Great are you, Lord!**

***Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of the Church**

ELW #178

(Sung Prayer Response)

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

***Sharing of the Peace**

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

“You Are Welcome”

Choir

***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 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

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.)

Distribution Song:

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW #496

*Refrain: One bread, one body,
one Lord of all.*

One cup of blessings which we bless.

**And we, though many,
throughout the earth,**

we are one body in this one Lord.

**1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain***

**2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord, of all. *Refrain***

**3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. *Refrain***

*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.**

‡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 Song:**

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

**ELW #681
vv. 1&3**

**1. We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

Refrain: **All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord,
we thank you, Lord,
for all your love.**

**3. We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure—
our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain***

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Elnora Sell** (surgery), **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).



Chris Thomas, 9/25; Spencer Blomenkamp, 9/30; Angie Hinze, 9/30;
Susan Martin, 9/30; Barbara Tallmon, 10/1; Jude Walker, 10/1

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.calvalrylutheranscottsbluff.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 (chicken strips/fries/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 24

PMA Bill Huelle

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!*

Next Sunday – October 1

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!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 24

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, September 25

5 p.m. – Parish Ed

Tuesday, September 26

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, September 27

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir

Saturday, September 30

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, October 1

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10—4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Psalms 136	God's love never fails
Thursday	Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Friday	Acts 20:32-38	Paul says goodbye
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.



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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*To God Our Thanks
We Give*



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 feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

Pray: God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 145:4 tells us: "One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts." Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: "*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" (Psalm 145:8)



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