

# WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP 4

## PROTECTION AND CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE!

**This Week's Gospels**    *Matthew 19:13-15, Deuteronomy 24:17-22*

*The Gospel Of Matthew*

<sup>13</sup> Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

*Deuteronomy*

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge. <sup>18</sup> Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup> "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. <sup>20</sup> When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

<sup>21</sup> "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

**Homily** by Brayden Chambers

For me the most important verse is verse 14, where Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs", because Jesus stands up for the children who are vulnerable and looked down upon

by the disciples. This shows me that Jesus sees everyone equally and loves us no matter if we are little or big. We are all a "Child of God" and Jesus takes all of his children into his kingdom no matter who you are or what you've done.

Jesus calls us to care for the vulnerable, the children, the sick, the homeless, the hurting and the hungry. The disciples in this story did not want the children to go near Jesus thinking that the children would take up his time, and they thought that Jesus had more important things to do, but then Jesus told them to let the children "Come to me". One-chapter earlier Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Jesus taught the disciples a very valuable lesson to not judge anybody for who they are. Jesus defended the children, even though they were little. Jesus sees the children as brave, valuable, and loved.

Calvary has helped me learn how to care for the vulnerable by doing service work to help those who need it, like Room in the Inn, Up Bring Foster Family Christmas Breakfast, Souper Bowl for Caring project, Calvary Day of Service, and Kids Club Counselor. I am looking forward to going on my first mission trip and being part of the Calvary's Day Camp team to help those in need and build their faith in Jesus. I have also learned from my time at Calvary, that we can support the vulnerable by praying for them like Jesus did in Matthew 19 verse 15. We are not always able to do service work, but we can always pray. A few times when I have prayed for people was when one of my classmates was in an accident by our school and had to have surgery. Another time I prayed was for one of my mom's best friend when she told us that she went to Heaven. I prayed that she was happy and had no more pain.

My takeaway is that we should not treat people differently and care for those in need. Jesus calls us to care for the vulnerable, the children, the sick, the homeless, the hurting and the hungry. When you do these things, we make room for Jesus, in our heart, in our life and in our world. How are you going to help someone who is vulnerable? Are you going to pray for them or support them with service work?

## **Homily** by Brooke Rothe

In our reading from Deuteronomy, we are told to be kind to others and share what we have with them. Because God loves us, we need to do something with that love. Even though most of us do not have vineyards or harvest fields very often, there are still ways to share God's love and share what he has given us.

How many of you know what the acronym LWR stands for? LWR stands for Lutheran World Relief. This organization provides humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and helps combat global poverty. Here at Calvary, we help support this mission by making quilts, personal care kits, baby care kits, and school kits. These quilts and kits go all over the world to share God's love with people in need.

Since I was eleven, I have enjoyed meeting each month with Calvary's quilters, helping to sew quilts and prepare kits. As a bonus, because of the quilters, I have learned how to sew and make quilts which is something I am very passionate about, and now I get to do it for something bigger than me: I get to share God's love with vulnerable people. Even though I may never see their smiling faces, I still know that I have made an impact on someone and may even help change someone's life.

The verses in Deuteronomy tell us to not keep the love of God to ourselves, but to share it with others, especially the vulnerable, whether that be through Lutheran World Relief quilting or through other avenues. We have other ministry opportunities at Calvary that can help share God's love like we are told to do in Deuteronomy. Even though we don't all have the same gifts, we can still use what we have been given to help us share the good news that God loves everyone.

The Good News is protection and care for the vulnerable. I challenge you to think about ways you can help people in need or those who are vulnerable.

## Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
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**Offering received during Hymn**



## Two Ways to Give

Download the new  
"Vanco Mobile" giving app  
from your smart phone's app store

Give online  
through this QR code  
*Use smart phone camera; click link*



### Worship Leaders

Homily  
Lector  
Prayers  
Sound

Brayden Chambers & Brooke Rothe  
Blake Bina  
Lily Aguilar  
Gary Graeber

## 2026 Mid-Week Lenten Series: *The Good News Is...*

**Holden Evening Prayer each  
Wednesday @ 7pm during Lent**

March 25 (7pm) - rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness!  
- John 8:2-11, Matthew 23:23