

# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor      [www.veronalutheran.com](http://www.veronalutheran.com)

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

## COMMUNION SERVICE

First time at Calvary? Thanks for joining us! ***Please take a moment to sign the Record of Fellowship (red pad) in your pew, and silence your cell phone.*** After the service, be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Please rise*

### OPENING HYMN:

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

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### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C: **God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE:           *Be Exalted O God***

Words & Music: Brent Chambers © 1977 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

R: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:**

*Acts 8:26-40*

R: Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you,

does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING:**

*1 John 4:7-21*

R: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise*

**C:** 🎵 Alleluia 🎵 Alleluia 🎵 Alleluia p. 190

**GOSPEL READING:** *John 15:1–8*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** 🎵 **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** 🎵 **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON HYMN:** *Chief of Sinners Though I Be* 611

## SERMON

*Please rise*

### APOSTLES' CREED

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**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### OFFERTORY:

*Create in Me*

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### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence*

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or

seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

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P: The Lord be with you

**C: 🎵 And with thy spirit**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: 🎵 We lift them up unto the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

**C: 🎵 It is meet and right so to do**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His

rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** 

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**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do, in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C:  Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

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**C: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

### SONG:

### *Enter This Temple*

Words & Music: Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring © 2008 Jack Mooring Music

*Please rise*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

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**C: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING SONG: *Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)***

Words & Music: J. Chapman, M. Hall, M. Bleecker © 2009 Curb Songs, Curb, Essential Music

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Christ is Risen!

**C: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

P: Jesus said, "I have come that you may have LIFE and have it abundantly." Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Holy Communion**

We believe that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion is offered at all of our services and is for all baptized Christians who share our belief that Christ, himself, is truly present. The individual cups are filled with wine (red) or grape juice (amber color).

### **Election of Officers and Directors**

A five-member Nominating Committee needs to be formed to prepare a slate of nominees for Calvary officers and directors in advance of a congregational election later this spring. If you would like to join Pastor Giordano on the Nominating Committee, please contact Andy Wolcott or Gloria in the church office. Also, please consider becoming a candidate for the positions up for election this year, which are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Board of Worship, Board of Stewardship and Board of Education.

**Bible Study continues this Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00.**

Each week, we will watch an episode of “The Chosen” and work through the study guide. Cost for the guide is \$12 on Amazon. If you are not able to buy it online, please give the money to Pastor Anthony or leave it in the church office **today**, and we will order it for you. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

**Picture Day**

Tuesday, May 7, all members are invited to have a professional photo taken for Calvary's new pictorial directory. Please see Ruth Bolger after the service to sign up for your appointment time. Each individual or family who participates will receive a free 8X10 portrait and a printed directory.

**The Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board!**

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God, in honor or memory of your loved ones. Special occasion such as an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, a graduation or in thanksgiving for family and friends, can also be celebrated by placing flowers at the altar. Flowers are \$60.00.

**CALENDAR:**

<b>Today:</b>	<b>11:30 am Coffee Hour</b>
Wednesday:	7:00 pm Bible Study
Thursday:	6:30 pm Praise Team practice
Sunday:	8:45 am Sunday School
	10:30 am Communion Service

**THOSE WHO SERVE US:**

Altar Guild: Anne Daly  
Communion Assistant: John Ricca  
Contemporary Music Director/Organist: Ruth Bolger  
Live Stream Producer/Projectionist: Christopher Bolger  
Reader: Joyce Sapara-Grant  
The Praise Team  
Usher: Gordon Wickham

**BIRTHDAY:** May 1<sup>st</sup> - Richard Akers



## PRAYER LIST

*Pray for:*

***John Wickham***

***LaVerne Sieglen***

***Al Arroyo***

***Pastor Anthony Iovine***

***Betty Kay Foster***

***Nathan Kuder***

***Don and Lucille Wernes***

***Luise Wetter***

***Ken and Edith Meyer***

***Fred Lausten***

***Lois Tiedemann***

***Kenneth Meyer Jr. and his mission work in Vienna.***



**Connect.**



**Grow.**



**Serve.**

### **CALVARY'S MISSION**

As God's Children, our mission is to  
*Know His Word, Share His Word and Live His Word*

**CCLI# 1304541**