



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor veronalutheran.com

Thirteenth Sun. after Pentecost, August 23, 2026, 10:30 am

If you are visiting Calvary, we hope you feel welcome. Please read our Holy Communion statement on page 9 of this bulletin. And please take a moment to fill out one of our Visitor Cards located in the slot of the pew in front of you. We will keep you updated on all the fun activities we have planned! After the service, be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Anthony.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please rise

OPENING HYMN: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* 575

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: *God of Wonders*

Words & Music: Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong © 2000 Never Say Never Songs

PRAYER OF THE DAY

R: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 51:1-6

R: "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; ² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. ³ The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. ⁴ "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. ⁵ My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke,

the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Romans 12:1-8

R: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise

C: 🎶 Alleluia 🎶 Alleluia 🎶 Alleluia

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GOSPEL READING:*Matthew 16:13-20*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: 🎵 *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

P: ¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: 🎵 *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

Please be seated

SONG:

Built on the Rock

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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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for
the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(A brief silence)

P: God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the
church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful
people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim
your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to
the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease,
famine, and disaster (especially Ukraine and the Middle
East). Guide the work of relief agencies and
peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

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."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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

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.

PRAYER

P: For anyone here who has doubt and is uncertain, for any of us unsure of what we believe about God: we welcome your doubts and uncertainties and we acknowledge our own. For anyone here who feels lost, or in between two places, we acknowledge how lonely that can feel.

For anyone here who is experiencing any pain, anxiety, sorrow, grief, or depression: we are not here to chase it away; we are not here to promise that our spiritual practices will make it go away. We are here to accompany you in the challenges and mysteries you face.

May you feel that you belong, may you feel the freedom to be just where you are, may you know that we believe and hope for you (especially when you cannot), and may you be refreshed at this table.

The gifts of God are for the people of God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

SONG: ***You Have Been So Good***

Words & Music: J Paul Baloché, Sara Groves © 2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/Sara Groves Music

PRAYER

C: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

THANK THE LORD 🎵

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**C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell everyone what He has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: *For All You've Done*

Words & Music: Reuben Morgan © 2004 Hillsong Music Publishing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God!

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). If you do not want to receive Communion, you may remain in your seat or come up to the altar and cross your arms on your chest. Pastor will give you a blessing.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Romans 12:1 – “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” That's the order: God's mercies, then our sacrifice. Since God's mercies are all-encompassing, so is our sacrifice: a total sacrifice, our total selves placed over into God's service according to how He has called each of us individually to serve in home, church and society.

The Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board!

Altar flower dedications offer a meaningful way to honor loved ones, celebrate special occasions, or give thanks. Sign up on the chart on the bulletin board by the stairs. Flowers are \$60.00 for 2 arrangements (\$30.00 each, if shared with someone).

CALENDAR:

Thursday: 6:30 pm Praise Team Practice
Sunday: 10:10 am Prayer Meeting in Kavasch Hall
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/Projectionist: Chris Bolger
Reader: Bob Eucker
The Praise Team

Bartholomew, Apostle

Monday, August 24

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Friday, August 28

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.



PRAY FOR:

Cathy Sherry

Doris Beall

Anita Minnix

John Wickham

Karl and Luise Wetter

Lucille Wernes

Dessirree Filaci

Gilbert Kriebel

Lorna

Caroline

Christian Pagan

Andrew Woram

Maydine

Lois Tiedemann

Gerry Shimonaski

Gordon Wickham

Fred Lausten

Al Arroyo

Nathan Kuder

Pastor Anthony Iovine

Jean Giovenco

Michael Conte

Colette

Mission Workers

Kenneth Meyer Jr. and his mission work in Vienna.

Benga Adesokan and his mission work with Nigeria.

CALVARY'S MISSION

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

Visit our website at **www.veronalutheran.com** for updates and online giving.
Click on the **donate** tab to set up online giving, it's easy and convenient.