



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

23 S. Prospect St. † Verona, NJ 07044 † Phone (973) 239-0577

Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor veronalutheran.com

Fourteenth Sun. after Pentecost, August 30, 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: *Onward Christian Soldiers* 662

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: *I Will Rise Up*

Words & Music: Mike Ash © 1997 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Songs

PRAYER OF THE DAY

R: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 15:15-21

R: ¹⁵ Lord, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. ¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails. ¹⁹ Therefore this is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the Lord. ²¹ "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you

from the grasp of the cruel.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Romans 12:9-21

R: ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

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

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

P: ²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” ²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” ²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. ²⁸“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

SONG: ***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus***
Words & Music: Helen H Lemmel © Public Domain

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: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry
is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or
challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow
you in faith. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live
in peace with one another. Bless the work of international
and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring
peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all
your children have safe access to food, water, shelter,
and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in
body, mind, and spirit (especially). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. 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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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: *At the Cross (I Know a Place)*

Words & Music: Randy & Terry Butler © 1993 Mercy Vineyard Publishing

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: *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

Words & Music: Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God!



Flowers at the altar today are lovingly placed by Amay Olive Kuuchi in memory of her dear husband, Cpl. Raymond Kuuchi, who died September 2, 2024. We honor his service and sacrifice. May the Lord grant him eternal peace.

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.

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).

Mission Focus

Alan Chorun, a NJ middle school teacher and Rutgers adjunct professor, went on a mission trip to a remote village in Sierra Leone, Africa in 2009 and saw it was a desperate place. The people were illiterate, food was sparse, and their only help was a few occasional Peace Corp volunteers. Two years later, he created Young Vision Africa, eventually bringing five homes, a modest medical center, a church, a small school, and most of all, hope to these forgotten souls. He is asking for donations towards their school lunches and solar panels for the school to have electricity and a computer. Please see our display in the narthex and prayerfully consider supporting this small but highly effective Christian charity.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Matthew 16:26 – “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” He who dies with the most toy...is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in home, church and society as loving, generous people. Those who don't know the Lord are afraid to be generous because they think that what they give away is lost to them. But we who know the Lord know that the things of this world become true blessings when they are used for God's kingdom.

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: Chris Houlihan
The Praise Team

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

September 4th - Susan Poesl



PRAY FOR:

Cathy Sherry

Doris Beall

Anita Minnix

John Wickham

Karl and Luise Wetter

Lucille Wernes

Dessirree Filaci

Gilbert Kriebel

Caroline

Christian Pagan

Doris Gedon

Jean Giovinco

Lois Tiedemann

Gerry Shimonaski

Gordon Wickham

Fred Lausten

Al Arroyo

Nathan Kuder

Pastor Anthony Iovine

Michael Conte

Andrew Woram

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.