



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor veronalutheran.com

Fifteenth Sun. after Pentecost, Sept. 6, 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: *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* 662

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

Undo

Words & Music: Huguley, Davis, Willis © 2007 Meaux Hits/Midas Magic

PRAYER OF THE DAY

R: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 33:7-11

R: ⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. ¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their

ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Romans 13:8-14

R: ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

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 18:15-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: 🎵 *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

P: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: 🎵 *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

Please be seated

HYMN: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* 707

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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

(A brief silence)

P: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (We pray especially for . . .) Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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.

**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:

God With Us

Words & Music: J. Ingram, L. Jordan © 2012 Integrity's Praise!/Open Hands Music, So
Essential Tunes

PRAYER

C: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your healing and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG: *The Wonderful Cross*

Words & Music: Tomlin, Watts, Walt, Reeves & Mason © 2000 Six Steps Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



The flowers at the altar today are placed by Cindy and Bob Eucker in celebration of their daughter-in-law Sam's 30th birthday on September 4th, Cindy's brother Harry's birthday on September 6, and their wedding anniversary on September 9.

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).

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Matthew 18:4 – “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is *childish* — we are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts: with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we'll take His advice!

Bible Study on Genesis resumes Wednesday 9/16 at 7pm in Kavasch Hall!

CALENDAR:

Thursday: 6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Friday: 11:00 am 9/11 Memorial Service

Sunday: 10:10 am Prayer Meeting in Kavasch Hall

10:30 am Communion Service

THOSE WHO SERVE US:

Altar Guild: Joyce Sapara-Grant

Communion Assistant: Abbaccus Dokie

Contemporary Music Director/Organist: Ruth Bolger

Live Stream/Projectionist: Chris Bolger

Reader: Matt Minucci

The Praise Team

Upcoming Feast Day

**Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654
Wednesday, September 9, 2026**

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity. Many Roman Catholic parishes in the United States are dedicated to him, including St. Peter Claver Church in Montclair!



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

Colette Pettigrew

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.