



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor veronalutheran.com

Nineteenth Sun. after Pentecost Oct. 4, 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: *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* 912

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: *For the Lord Our God Reigns*

Words & Music: Craig Smith © 2002 Integrity's Alleluia! Music

PRAYER OF THE DAY

R: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 5:1-7

R: I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³ "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." ⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:*Philippians 3:4b-14*

R: ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21th chapter.

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

P: ³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’”? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

HYMN: *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing*

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SERMON

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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we
pray for the church and the world.

(A brief silence)

P: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have
sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire
us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the
world's conflict zones, especially in the Middle East and
Ukraine, and shelter those who live within them. We pray
especially for the safety of displaced people and
refugees. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through 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, 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:

Holy Is the Lord

Words & Music: Kelly Green © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

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: *All the People Said Amen*

Words & Music: Maher, Moak & Morgan © 2013 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God!



Flowers at the altar today are placed by Edith Conte in celebration of her son Michael's 67th birthday, Oct. 3rd.

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.

Our New Member Class will take place on the following dates: 10/4 (**today**), 10/11 and 10/18 immediately following worship. **New Member Sunday will be on 10/25.** Lunch and books will be provided. Anyone who has come to Calvary since our last class is welcome to join! Please see Pastor Anthony if you have any questions.

Crafting with Calvary - Join us for a fun paint night on Wednesday, October 14 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Cost: \$25 per person (includes supplies, instruction and snacks). Sign up on the clipboard in Kavasch Hall or contact Edna.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Matthew 21:43 – “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.” The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. Though they were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing and all the rest, they neglected the heart of God’s will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God’s grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

CALENDAR: Today New Member Class after Service

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible Study - Genesis

Thursday: 3:00 pm Bible Class on Ephesians – led by
Bob Eucker and Chris Houlihan
6:30 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School
10:10 am Prayer Meeting in Kavasch Hall
10:30 am Communion Service

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

October 6th – Kweku Sapara-Grant

October 9th – Aubrey Perkins

THOSE WHO SERVE US:

Altar Guild: Debbie Houlihan

Communion Assistant: Abbaccus Dokie

Contemporary Music Director/Organist: Ruth Bolger

Live Stream/Projectionist: Chris Bolger

Reader: Joyce Sapara-Grant

The Praise Team

Upcoming Feast Day

**Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226
Sunday, October 4, 2026**

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.



10/4/26

PRAY FOR:

Doris Beall

Anita Minnix

Gordon Wickham

Karl and Luise Wetter

Lucille Wernes

Dessirree Filaci

Gilbert Kriebel

Caroline

Christian Pagan

Valerie Benitez

Susan Smith

Lois Tiedemann

Gerry Shimonaski

Jean Giovinco

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.

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