

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Anthony Giordano, Pastor www.veronalutheran.com

Easter Sunday † March 31, 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: Fantasy on Easter Themes Kohlmann
Sonata No. 2 Galliard

WELCOME

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: ***Crown Him with Many Crowns*** 525

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The apostle Paul writes, "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

C: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

P: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

C: For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

P: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

C: 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

C: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn:

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus'

death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, 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:

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord as spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the

word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING:

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the

other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

SONG: *My Redeemer Lives*

Words & Music: Reuben Morgan © 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing

MESSAGE

HYMN: *Low In the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose)*

NICENE CREED

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I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

Create in Me

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PRAYERS

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.

(Pause for a moment of silent confession.)

P: Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, we pray for Calvary and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. 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 HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 saying:

SANCTUS

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body

and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

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.

AGNUS DEI

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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: *The Old Rugged Cross*

Words & Music: George Bennard © Public Domain

NUNC DIMITTIS:

Song of Simeon

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

HYMN:

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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).

Bible Study begins Wednesday, April 10 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 by Sunday, April 7, and we will order it for you. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends, families, and neighbors to participate. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

CALENDAR:

Thursday: 7:00 pm Praise Team practice
Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Communion Service

THOSE WHO SERVE US:

Acolyte: Evelyn DiMartino
Altar Guild: Jaya Lakra
Communion Assistant: John Ricca
Contemporary Music Director/Organist: Ruth Bolger
Crucifer: Shane DiMartino
Greeter: Edna Giordano
Live Stream Producer/Projectionist: Christopher Bolger
Reader: Joyce Sapara-Grant
The Praise Team
Trombone: Matt Minucci
Ushers: Shanna Cook, Bob Eucker, Brian Keltner,
Gordon Wickham
Violin: Steve Sizer

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

April 4 Ruth Wickham, April 4 Julie Erwin

CALVARY'S MISSION

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



PRAYER LIST

Pray for:

The DeMik Family.

John Wickham, who is now at home, following a fall and a brief hospital stay.

LaVerne Sieglen, who is at Crane's Mill. May God watch over and strengthen her.

Al Arroyo, Joanne's husband, that God will continue to heal him as he recovers at home following a stroke.

Shirley, Debbie's friend, who is struggling with paralysis.

Betty Kay Foster, a college friend of Edith Conte, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Dominic Cappello, Edith Conte's neighbor, a young elementary school boy, who has a cancerous brain tumor.

Nathan Kuder, may the Lord bring His healing upon him.

Don and Lucille Wernes, for healing and strength.

Luise Wetter, still suffering with back and leg pain.

Ken and Edith Meyer, who need strength and encouragement while dealing with various medical issues.

Lois Tiedemann, who is suffering with chronic health conditions.

Kenneth Meyer Jr. and his mission work in Vienna.