



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

March 26, 2023

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Calvary Lutheran Church
Cranford, NJ

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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+ + +

Calvary Lutheran Church

is a member congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Serving Cranford and the surrounding area for more than 90 years

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Calvary Lutheran
Cranford, New Jersey



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



10:15 am Holy Communion

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P** Thank you, God, for our wonderful young people
C And for making us all your children through Baptism.
P Thank you for feeding us with faith and your presence
C Through your Word and the Bread and Wine of Communion.
P Bless us this day in our worship
C And richly bless our First Communicants,
ALL Amen! Amen!



Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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GREETING

P May God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Host & Lord and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

C And also with you.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of all good gifts, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you feed and renew us with the presence of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we receive Christ's body and blood today, forgive our sins and nourish our faith. Fill us all with the power of your love to be a blessing to those around us. In Jesus' name, our Host & Lord, we pray,

C Amen

↓SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM: Psalm 130	<i>(Read Responsively)</i>
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A A READING FROM PSALM 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

A THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: John 11:1-44

P THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN THE ELEVENTH CHAPTER

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

C “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him,

C “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him,

C “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”

¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

C “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many

of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus,

☐ “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” [And] Martha said to him,

☐ “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. [Martha] do you believe this?”

☐ “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When Martha had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately,

☐ “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,

☐ “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?”

☐ “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said,

☐ “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said,

☐ “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,

☐ “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear

me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

[P] THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

[C] Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “I Am the Bread of Life” ELW #485

Verses sung by Mellisa Toddings, soloist

Refrain sung by congregation

APOSTLES’ CREED

[P] For some, the Apostles’ Creed is like liturgical muscle memory: You can say it without thinking about it.

Today we ask you to affirm your faith by answering questions so you might truly consider what you believe.

If you feel unable to affirm your faith today, listen to those around you.

Borrow some faith from them as we share these ancient words.

[P] Do you believe there is a God who made us?

[C] I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe this God sent a child named Jesus to save this world?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe the Holy Spirit animates our faith and empowers the church today?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

THE PRAYERS

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church, including Calvary and Holy Cross. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them.
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness *especially* **Russell Dawson, Kathy Ferrise, Emily Freely, Dick Peterson, Juanita Ramos, Nisha Ribardo, Carl Swenson, Anna Swing, Lois Taylor** and those we name aloud, and in our hearts (pause). We also pray for our homebound members, military personnel and those struggling with mental health issues. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C Amen.

⇔ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share the peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God, what will you do with these gifts?

We may never know.

But we carry a faith passed to us through generations.

We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands.

We break the bread of answered prayers.

Use the gifts we give today to grow tomorrow's mercy.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P If you wonder whether God really wants you at this table, Jesus answers *yes*.
C Amen.

Here is Bread



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

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↓ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ SENDING HYMN “I Received the Living God” *ELW #477*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Prayers for the homebound

✝ Pray for our elderly members who are unable to attend worship and help us to minister to them faithfully especially June Kaiser, Jean Kissack, Eddie Leicht, Nancy Leicht, Rocky Metroka, Fred Miller, Helene Miller, and Edith Nahirniak.

Prayers for the military

✝ Protect and comfort our servicemen and women as they stand in harm's way (*especially*), Steven Bobrowski, Jeff Hill and Phillip Spatz. We pray for families and countries in conflict throughout the world.



Members of the Calvary Congregation Council:

Matthew Spatz, Council President

Irene Vest, Vice President

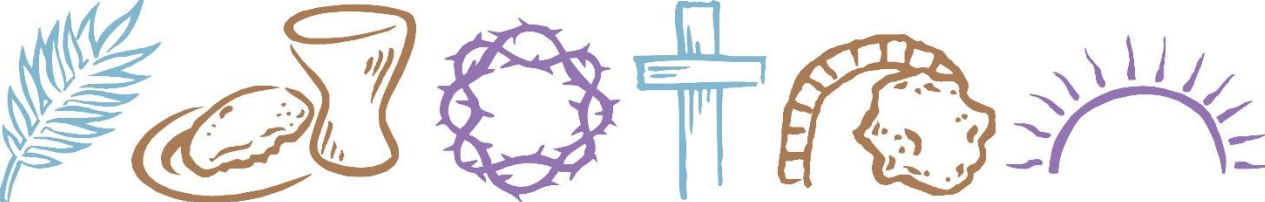
Dale Koznecki, Operations Coordinator

Tim Birkel, Treasurer & Finance Officer

Laura Berman, GROW Coordinator

Linda Huff, CONNECT Coordinator

Steve Owens, SERVE Coordinator



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday – April 2

9AM Children's Service

10:15 AM Passion Service with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday – April 6

1:15 PM Conference Call worship

7:30 PM Meditative Service

Good Friday – April 7

12PM Cranford Community Service at Calvary

7:30 PM Tenebrae Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday – April 9

9AM Children's Service with Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 AM Festival Service with Holy Communion