

Calvary Lutheran Church

October 29, 2023

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

108 EASTMAN STREET

CRANFORD, NJ 07016-2122

Phone (908) 276-2418 FAX (908) 276-2419

E-mail office@calvarycranford.com

www.calvarycranford.com

The Rev. Dr. Gunnar Anderson, Vice Pastor

Jeanne Elmuccio, Music Director

Susan Lachance, Parish Manager

Matthew Spatz, Congregation Council President

Calvary Nursery School and Child Care

Phone (908) 272-3962 E-mail: calvarynsc@verizon.net

Stacy Nick-Casey, Director

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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.



October 29, 2023
10:15 a.m. Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! Though we give thanks for the events of the sixteenth-century Reformation that brought renewal to the church of that time, we pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism, we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

Reformation Day

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C A Prayer of Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P On this Reformation Day, we gather for worship in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P We thank God today for men and women,

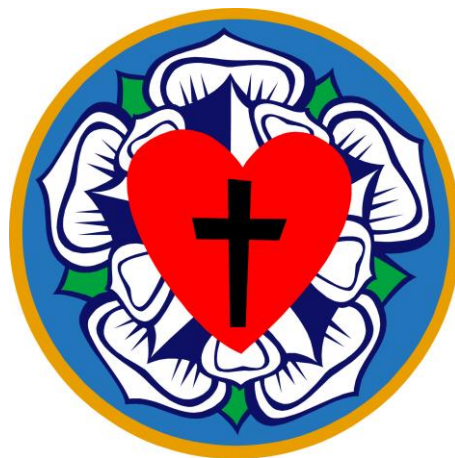
C teachers and prophets, inspired by God's spirit,

P whose voices have strengthened the church and called us back to the gospel,

C renewing our life and proclaiming the reality of God's kingdom.

P We thank God, especially today, for the life and witness of Martin Luther and we pray that we also will be faithful reformers of your church!

C Amen.



GREETING

P God of hosts most gracious,
 God the Son who saves us,
 God the Spirit placed upon us,
 be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A A READING FROM JEREMIAH THE 31st CHAPTER

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46 (Read Responsively)

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

⁸The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹¹"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

¹²The LORD of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

☐ A READING FROM ROMANS THE 3rd CHAPTER

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A THE WORD OF THE LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

↑GOSPEL VERSE “*God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage*” ELW#509

(Sung to the tune, A Mighty Fortress is Our God)

God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast throughout all generations.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN THE 8TH CHAPTER

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

℟ THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

⬆ HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

ELW #517

APOSTLES' CREED

☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially*) **Aronson Family, Sue Bird (Wisconsin) Bev Currier, Emily Freely, Daphne Greenwood, Beth Juntilla, Joan Kylish, Dennis Peterson, Brenda Richardson, Bud Sorenson, Chris Walkley and Heather Viscito**, and those we name aloud and, in our hearts, (*pause*). We pray also today, Lord, for our homebound members, military personnel, those struggling with mental health issues and persons facing abuse. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

⇔ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

↓ OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

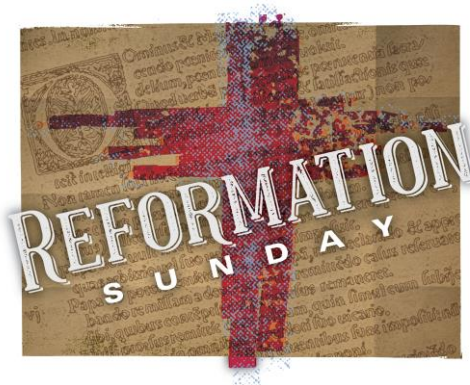
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

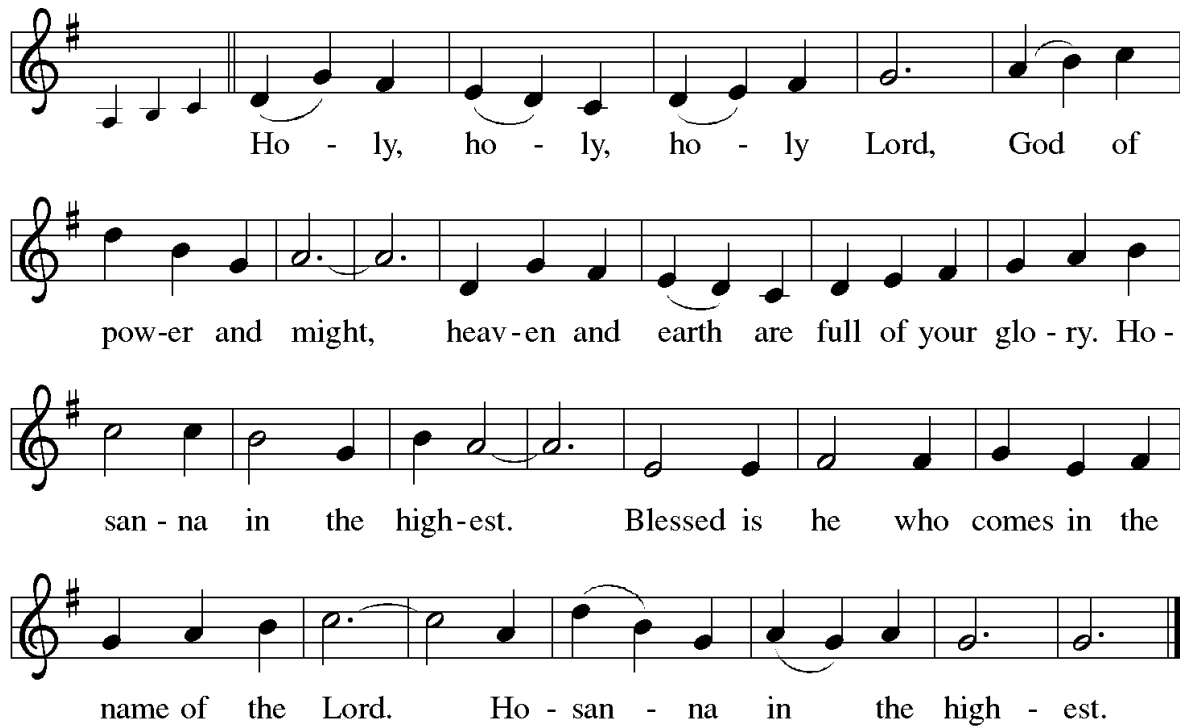
PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy father, through the great shepherd of your flock, Christ, our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the age. And so, with patriarchs and prophets, with apostles and reformers, like Martin Luther, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



SANCTUS

(ELW, Setting One)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; continuing the reformation; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

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. 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. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C Amen.

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 Jesus invites you to his table. Come, eat and live.
C Amen.

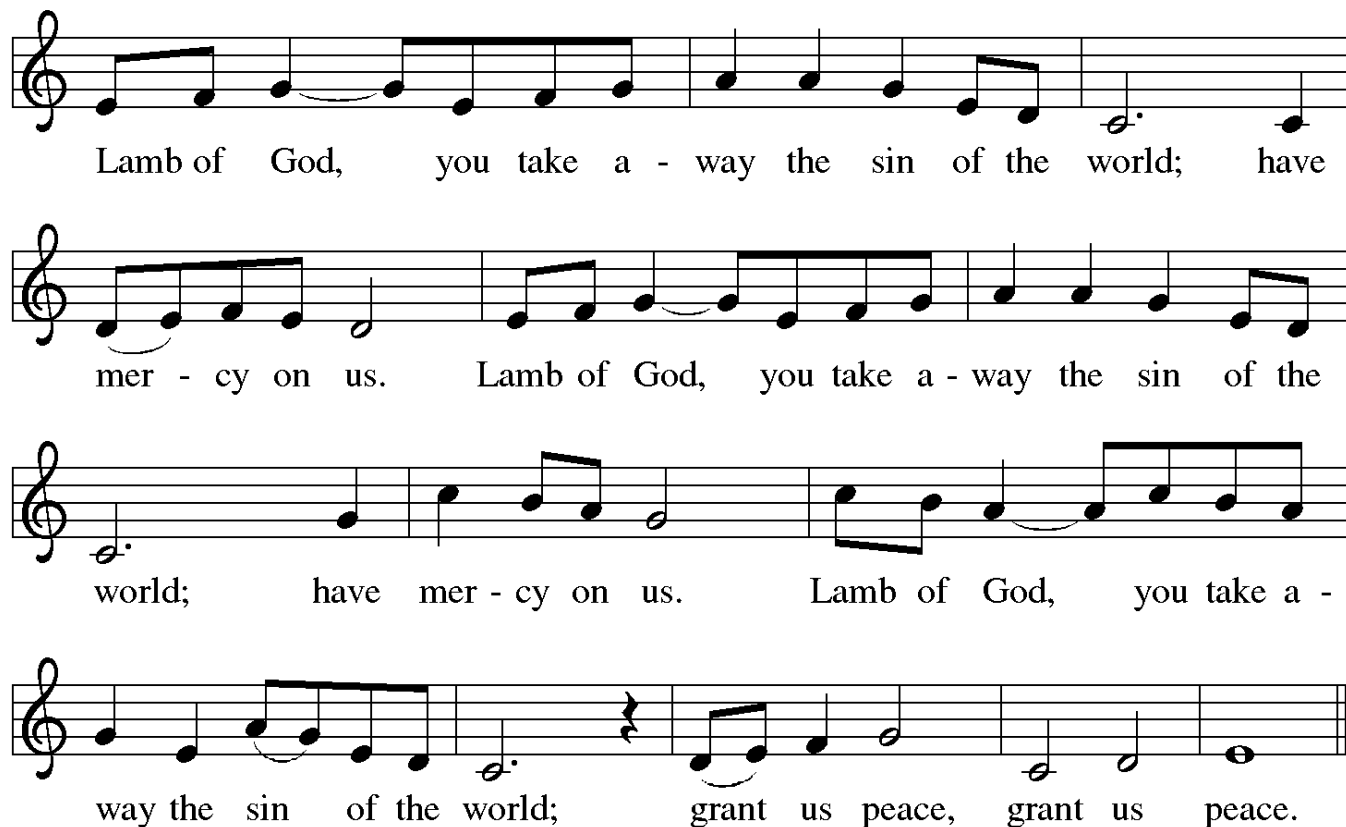
↓ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

In Christian fellowship you are welcome to the Lord's table. Come forward by the center aisle to receive the host and wine. (The pulpit side of the congregation communes first). If you prefer grape juice, the cups in the center of the tray are filled with juice. Wine is on the outside. Return to your pew using the side aisle after you have communed. Children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

AGNUS DEI

(ELW, Setting One)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

↑ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen

BLESSING

P The God of glory, ✙ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

↑ CLOSING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW # 504

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. God is at work in you.

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*), Chris Mancinelli, Fong Yee, Helga Schalpe, Bill Culver, Eleanor Willert, Meta Brockmann, June Kaiser, Jean Kissack, Eddie Leicht, Nancy Leicht, Rocky Metroka, Fred Miller, and Chuck Sherrick.

Prayers for the military

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

