

Calvary Lutheran Church

8:30 am Sunday Worship for May 18, 2025

950 Bradley Street Concord, NC 28025 www.clconcord.org celca@clconcord.org 704-782-6923



Growing in compassionate relationships, faith, service, and generosity through Christ

Welcome to Calvary! All are welcome in this community through the grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that you will find joy and peace as you worship with us.

- Check out our **welcome center** in the lobby (narthex) for information about our congregation.
- Children and parents are invited to use our **children's resource center** located in the lobby.
- **If you are a guest with us today**, please fill out one of our visitor cards found in the pews.



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Only by Grace

AS WE GATHER*

Our God

1. Wa-ter You turned in-to wine, — opened the eyes of the blind; There's no one like You, none like You.

2. In-to the dark-ness You shine, — out of the ash - es, we rise; There's no one like You, none like You.

Chorus

Our God is great - er our God is strong-er; God, You are high - er than an -

20 - y oth - er. Our God is heal - er, awe-some in pow - er, our God, — our God.

24 (repeat to Verse 2)

And if our God is for us then who could ev-er stop us,

31 and if our God is with us then what could stand a - gainst? — And if our God is for us

34 then who could ev - er stop us, and if our God is with us then what could stand a - gainst?

37 — What could stand a - gainst? — (to Chorus)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand in body or in spirit at these places in the service.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P In the name of [†] the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C make us one as you are one.

P Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C Amen.

SONG TO OPEN OUR HEARTS *

Love the Lord

1. Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
 2. I will serve the Lord with all my heart,

2 with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength;
 with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength;

4 — Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
 I will serve the Lord with all my heart,

6 with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
 with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

8 — With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,
 With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind,

11 — with all your strength; Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
 with all my strength; I will serve the Lord, with all my heart,

14 — with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
 with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. [1.]

17

2. Leader I will love You; I will

25 Leader love You; I will praise You; I will praise You;

30 Leader I will serve You; All I will serve You; Leader I will

35 trust You, Lord. All With all my heart, with all my soul,

39 with all my mind, with all my strength; 1. With all my heart,

42 2. I will love You, Lord, with all my heart,

44 with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

P O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS *We wait for God to speak to us in and through His word.*

L Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels;**
 sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
 sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,**
 and you waters above the heavens.

(continued)

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all
faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are
near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SONG*



Al - le - lu - ia! We are list - 'ning. Speak to us, your Word is life!

We are hun - gry, we are long - ing for the bread that sat - is - fies.

Al - le - lu - ia!

P The Gospel according to John 13:31-35*

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Frantisek

SONG OF DISCIPLESHIP *

A New Commandment

A new com - mand-ment I give to you that you love one a-noth - er as I have loved you. A new com - mand-ment I give to you that you love one a-noth - er as I have loved you. By this shall all men know if you love one a-no - ther. By this shall all men know that you are My dis-ci - ples. A new com - ples. By that you are My dis-ci - ples. By that you are My dis-ci - ples.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Silence for reflection.

After each petition:

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude

A We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

We are fed in our life of faith at the Lord's table.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *We have heard that God has loved us again and again through faith in Christ. This message brings us peace and gives us peace to share. We turn to those around us and offer them peace.*

OFFERING

- *The offering is an act of worship where we respond to God's goodness in our lives by returning to God a portion of what he has first entrusted to us.*
- *Thank you for your worship of God through sharing your time, talents, and finances.*
- *If you would like to share a financial offering by credit card, you may do so by scanning the QR code.*



OFFERING SONG *

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je - sus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One, give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give us. Give thanks!

OFFERTORY PRAYER*

A Risen One,

C you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

THE LORD'S PRAYER*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

THE LORD'S PRAYER*

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *Please be seated.*

- *We invite those worshipping online to join us in Holy Communion as we share in the one body of Christ this morning.*
- *For those worshipping in person, you may receive communion by coming to the altar or by standing at your seat.*
- *When communing, you may choose either the prepackaged bread and grape juice or the wafer and wine in individual cups.*

COMMUNION

Baptized and Set Free

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

P Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent into the world to share the love and welcome of God.

BLESSING*

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, [☩] Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG*

The River Is Here

See the next page

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Song of Discipleship: A New Commandment Stephen Crain

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SENDING SONG*

The River Is Here

Chorus

The river of God sets our feet to dancing, the river of God fills our

hearts with cheer; The river of God fills our mouths with laughter and

Verse

we rejoice for the river is here.

1. Down the mountain, the
2. The river of God is
3. Up to the mountain we

11

river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
teeming with life and all who touch it can be revived. And
love to go, to find the presence of the Lord. A-

14

Through the valleys and over the fields, the
all who linger on this river's shore will
long the banks of the river we run,

16

to Chorus

river is rushing and the river is here.
come back thirsting for more of the Lord.
dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given by Marc and Laurel Gregory to the glory of God and in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary.

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for Sunday worship, please see the bulletin board outside the choir room for the calendar of available dates and an order form or call our office administrator.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER	May 18th	May 25th
Worship Assistant	Ann Bolick	Steve DuPont
Lector	Tim Bolick	Walt Friday
Ushers	Vince and Gaylene Butch	Cathy DuPont
Altar Guild	Pattie McGinnis	Rosie Schieber
CPOM	Kevin Gehl	Kevin Gehl
Tellers	Terry Ramseur Glen Rediehs Nancy Haney	Susan Meyer Gary Norris Nancy Haney

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE GOD DURING 8:30 WORSHIP IN JUNE

Volunteers are still needed in June for the following:

June 1st: worship assistant

June 8th: lector, usher (s)

June 15th: worship assistant, lector, usher(s)

June 22nd: worship assistant, lector, usher(s)

If you are available to serve in one of these roles, please call or email the church office or use this QR code to signup on line:



Use this QR code to access this week's E news.



Prayer requests will remain on the current list for four weeks. Please call the church office if you would like to add a name or resubmit a name for another four weeks.

Week of May 18th:

- Kyle Pearce (healing following surgery)
- Jean Smith (healing following knee replacement surgery)
- Kirsten Filippelli (healing) – co-worker of Rosie Schieber)

Week 2:

- Nancy Haney (healing following a hospital visit)
- Rylan Massey (healing) – grandson of Sheldon Parks

Week 3:

- Mike Remkus (healing)
- Dennis Moretz (healing) – brother of Phyllis Remkus
- Debbie Stopko-Korhut and Jodi Korhut – friends of Kathi Hissong

Week 4:

- Our condolences to the family of Dorothy **Elaine** Blackwelder at her death on April 17th.
- Pam Varnadore (healing) - sister of Cathy Steere

Use this QR code to access this week's E news.

Please remember your church in your will. See Pastor Frantisek or any council member to assist you in this process.