

Calvary Lutheran Church

8:30 am Sunday Worship for May 17, 2026

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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We Are the Church

AS WE GATHER*

Blessed Be Your Name

AWG 18

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES

Jocelyn Bliss—JM Robinson High School

Will Kelly—West Cabarrus High School

Jake Johnson—University of North Carolina at Charlotte

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C Amen.

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C Amen.

SONG TO OPEN OUR HEARTS

Today Is the Day

AWG 103

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through 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 1:6-14

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

¹ Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish
at the presence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence
of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11


¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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!

5



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

9



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P The Gospel according to John 17:1-11*

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor František

SONG OF DISCIPLESHIP*

| | |
|--|--|
| Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain Holy, holy is He; Sing a new song to Him Who sits on Heaven’s mercy seat Chorus: Holy, holy, holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings You are my ev’rything And I will adore You | Clothed in rainbows of living color Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder Blessing and honor strength and glory And power be to You the only wise King Chorus Filled with wonder. awestruck wonder At the mention of Your name; Jesus Your name is power, breath and living wa- ter, Such a marv’lous mystery Chorus |
|--|--|

HOLY BAPTISM

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, **Rachel McKenna Safrit**, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

R I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support **Rachel** and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C We do.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 in God the Holy Spirit?

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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P **Rachel McKenna Safrit**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your Daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life. Sustain **Rachel** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

P **Rachel**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**catholic*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

After each petition:

A Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude

A God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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.*



You are invited to place your pledge card for “Opening Our Doors to New Possibilities” in the basket at the baptismal fount as you come forward to receive communion.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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

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 Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

Build Your Kingdom Here

AWG 21

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given by Marc and Laurel Gregory to the glory of God and in honor of their 13th wedding anniversary.

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

| WORSHIP VOLUNTEER | May 17th | May 24th |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Worship Assistant | Susan Norris | Steve DuPont |
| Lector | Greg Twait | Tim Bolick |
| Ushers | Needed | Tim and Ann Bolick |
| Altar Guild | Rosie Schieber | Rosie Schieber |
| CPOM | Tim Bolick | Tim Bolick |
| Tellers | Vivian Howard Susan Meyer Nancy Haney | Vivian Howard Terry Ramseur Nancy Haney |



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 17th:

- Bill Cone (healing) – father of Jenny Carroll
- Danny Pfeifer (upcoming surgery) - friend of Susan Myers

Week 2:

- Brent London (healing) – son of Cathy Steere
- Gary Ridenhour (healing) – father of Lori Barnhardt

Week 3:

- Molly Niekamp (healing following foot surgery)

Week 4:

- Nancy Haney (healing)
- Anne Hough (healing)
- Clyde Graeber (beginning radiation treatments)
- Nancy Deal (healing) -David Deal's mother
- Dianne Williams (healing) – Brian Williams' mother
- Wayne E. (healing) – Bryan Gabriel's friend

Please use this QR code to access this week's E News.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CALVARY



ROWAN BIG BAND IS BACK!

THIS EVENING -Sunday, May 17th

5:30 pm in our fellowship hall

Join us for a Rowan Big Band Spring Concert in Calvary's fellowship hall. Make plans to come out for an evening of Big Band music, refreshments, and fellowship!



**CALVARY
SERENITY TRAIL**

Save THE *Date*

CONGREGATIONAL
PICNIC

— AND —
**SERENITY
TRAIL FEST**



SATURDAY,
JUNE 13TH



5 – 8 PM



IN THE
CALVARY
PICNIC SHELTER

FRIED CHICKEN AND PULLED PORK
WILL BE PROVIDED.

Bring a side dish or dessert.



Our Mission: Growing in compassionate relationships, faith, service, and generosity through Christ

Our Vision: Sharing the light of Christ with everyone

We, the people of Calvary Lutheran Church, believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Within this communion of Faith, we hold these guiding principles:

- **Everyone is invited, welcomed, and included.**
- **Everyone is supported in times of personal need.**
- **Everyone is spiritually fed and grows in discipleship.**
- **Everyone is given opportunities to generously offer their God-given gifts (time, talent, and treasure) in worship and ministry.**
- **Everyone is given opportunities to generously serve others, both within the community of faith and in the community at large.**

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