

# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 30, 2023**

**Rev. Veronika Czutor  
Pastor**

# Central Lutheran Church, ELCA

1000 Easton Rd., Dallas, Texas

**God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.**

*Please turn off your cell phone.*

*This service is being livestreamed to our neighbors near and far on Facebook.*

*Most of the sanctuary- including all leaders and worshippers- is on camera.*

**BELL PEAL (10:30 am)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN MEDITATION** *Prelude on "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"* Max Roger

**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, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C Amen.**

## Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Ra - dianc e of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

# THIS IS THE FEAST

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 LESSON: Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

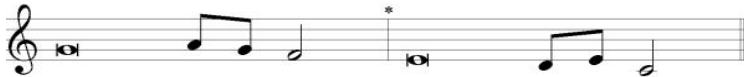
<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 23

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Veronika



P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever

enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

## SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Greg Smith

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 502

### The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people  
according to their needs.

*Please sit or kneel for prayer.*

*The response to each spoken petition is:*

P Lord, in your mercy

**C Hear our prayer.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia Landfair, Paul Chambers, Jan Hare, Lorraine Coussons,  
Jean Staffeld, Mary Haynie, Andrew Lott, Jerry Krause, and Dawn Gray.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P ...through your son Jesus Christ, our Lord

**C Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with  
one another in Christ Jesus. Please offer a symbol of reconciliation to one another.*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## **THE OFFERING**

*We give thanks for what God has first given us. Our ministry to the people of East Dallas is supported by your  
offering. An offering plate is available in the narthex after worship. You may also use our online giving  
through **Vanco, PayPal, or Givelify** (available in the App Store) or continue to mail your offerings to our  
office.*



# MUSICAL OFFERING

ELW 374

*Sung by congregation*

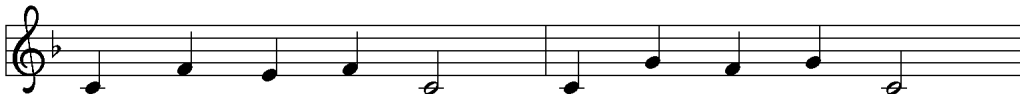
## Day of Arising



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Generous God,

**C in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## THE 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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you... With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**C Thanks be to God**

## **COMMUNION**

*As you come forward for the Sacrament, please sanitize your hands with the sanitizer found on the first pew. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. You may kneel or stand. The host will be dipped in the chalice and placed in your hand. If you prefer to receive only the host, please tell the ministers. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please fold your arms in front of your chest. At this time there is no consecrated grape juice. If you prefer, you can also bring the pre-packaged communion kit with you to the altar rail.*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

*Follow the guidance of the ushers if you decide to walk up to the Altar to receive the Sacraments.*



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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Meditative organ music is played as the congregation receives the Holy Communion.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God,

**C** in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

**P** The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**C Amen.**

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
- 3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
- 4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.  
 Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;  
 Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,



Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.  
 sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.  
 in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.  
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing!

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Acknowledgments:**

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Gathering Hymn: *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*

Text: Robias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin 1707, st. 4; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

Music: LIEBSER JESUS, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

Hymn of the Day: *The King of Love my Shepherd is*

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

Music: St. Columba, Irish Tune

Musical Offering: *Day of Arising*

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text ©1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music, ©1999 Augsburg Fortress

Sending Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, part II, Stralsund, 1665

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### **Central Lutheran Church**

God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.



Central Lutheran Church  
Dallas, Texas 1922-2022

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

**Pastor: The Rev. Veronika Czutor**

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[CentralLutheran.org](http://CentralLutheran.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Visitors, we are glad to have you with us and invite you to come again!**

**Pr. Veronika's Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm; other days/times by appointment.

**Serving in Worship today:** Ushers: Jan Moody; Lector: Carrie Enocksen

**Ushers & Lectors needed:** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the education building.

**Updated Directories are available in the narthex.** They include the new members' contact information.

**Sharing & Caring:** Join us before church at **9 am next Sunday, May 7**, as we address birthday, anniversary, and get-well cards to our church family with celebrations in May. Breakfast treats and coffee will be provided.

**Family Picnic:** We will have a picnic for families with kids **next Sunday, May 7 after church**. We will discuss plans for children's Sunday school going forward.

**Registration has begun for VBS 2023!** VBS this summer will be on June 26-30, 9am-noon. This QR code takes you to the general VBS information page on our site, and to registration. Contact Alesia Pearson (214-215-7670 or alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net) if you can help that week or set up the week before.



**Guest Preacher:** Today our guest preacher is **Dr. Greg Smith**.

Greg is the executive director of White Rock Center of Hope. He volunteers in a variety of roles including as Board Chair of the Texas Association of Charitable Clinics, and Small Group Ministry Leader at Cathedral of Hope. Previously, he served nine congregations (in Texas and Florida), taught religion to undergraduates for eight years, and helped three organizations provide quality healthcare to underserved populations. Greg's theological education started with an undergraduate degree in ministry followed by a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry. More than 2,000 of Greg's reflections on matters of faith that matter are available on his blog: [www.sowhatfaith.com](http://www.sowhatfaith.com).

# Mark Your Calendars for these upcoming events:

**May 7:** Family Picnic after church

**May 7:** Sharing and Caring- 9am

**May 10:** Lydia Circle -7pm



Scan this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](http://linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch)) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or donate online.

**Our Prayer List:** Please submit your prayer requests to the church office via email ([central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com)) or via phone (214-327-2222).

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT

### For healing

Ruth Steiner

Jackson & Tracey Murtha

Bonnie Sato

Lorraine Coussons

Charlotte Breedlove

Billie Jo & Dennis Neilson

Dawn Gray

Selena Dybdahl

### Relationship

Sister of Susan and Judy

Friends of Jan Moody

Sister of Harold Knight

Grandmother of Kyle Rush

Neighbor of Harold Jones

Sister and Brother-in-law of Jerry Krause

Bethany CDC Teacher

Sister of Mary Glenn

### Church Members

Mary Haynie

Pat Buie

Don Smith

Mario Montejo

Kris McDowell

Patsy Schoen

Yuvonne Muirhead

### Those Who Mourn

Bill Slonecker and his family