



# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Ascension Sunday**

**May 21, 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** Meditation on "O Christ, our Hope" Johann Walther

**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.**

## A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
 4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
 stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers  
 sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
 sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
 cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.  
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

## 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 Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-11**

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

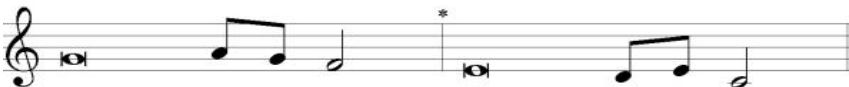
<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy 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.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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.”

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 47**

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:  
a great king over | all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;

<sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

## **SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Pastor Veronika**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

**READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you O Christ**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Veronika**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

## 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, **Jan** Hare, **Lorraine** Coussons, **Jean** Staffeld, **Mary** Haynie, **Andrew** Lott, 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 847

*The congregation sings in unison*

### Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor- thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex- alt- ed thus!"  
3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re-ceive hon- or and pow'r di- vine;  
4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one to bless the sa- cred name



ten thou- sand thou- sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor- thy the Lamb," our lips re- ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless- ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for- ev- er thine.  
of God who sits up- on the throne, and to a- dore the Lamb.

## 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.

## EUCHARISTIC 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.*

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 825

### You Servants of God



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -  
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of  
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his  
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the  
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!  
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!  
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.  
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

## 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: *A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing!*

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: LAAST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Hymn of the Day: *O Christ, Our Hope*

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

Musical Offering: *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Sending Hymn: *You Servants of God*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1717-1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

### 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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# 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:** Usher: Judy Koble, and Lector: Ed Wolfgang

**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.

**The church council meeting** has been moved due to Mother's Day. It will be **today at noon**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Registration is ongoing 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.



## Mark Your Calendars for these upcoming events:

**May 27:** Bill Slonecker's Memorial Service, 3pm

**May 29:** Memorial Day, office closed

**June 4:** Sharing and Caring, 9am



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  
Dawn Gray  
Bryan Helm  
Selena Dybdahl

#### Relationship

Sister of Susan and Judy  
Friends of Jan Moody  
Sister of Harold Knight  
Grandmother of Kyle Rush  
Neighbor of Harold Jones  
Bethany CDC Teacher  
Brother-in-law of Paul Chambers  
Sister of Mary Glenn

#### Church Members

Mary Haynie  
Don Smith  
Mario Montejo  
Kris McDowell  
Patsy Schoen  
Yuvonne Muirhead

#### Those in Mourning

Bill Slonecker's family  
Jerry Krause's family  
Pat Buie's family