

# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 23, 2023**

**Ed Fiducia  
Parish Lay Minister**

**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**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION: Meditation on "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 526**

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore,  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*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, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## 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.**

## Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our  
 2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise in  
 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O  
 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and



hearts in true de - vo - tion bow. Your  
 end - less hymns through all our days; in -  
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord Most High!" And  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One! To



Spir - it send with light di - vine, and  
 crease our faith and light our minds; and  
 in the light of that blest place we  
 you, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty, be



let your truth with - in us shine.  
 set us free from doubt that blinds.  
 then shall see you face to face.  
 praise through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8

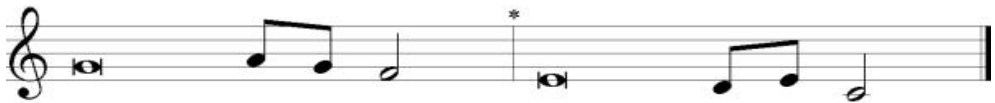
<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 86:11-17

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,  
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your | love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my  
life;  
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to  
shame;**

**because you, LORD, have helped me and com- | forted me**

## SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-25

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are

children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**Ed Fiducia**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13: 24-30. 36-43

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the

householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Ed Fiducia**

## The Word of God Is Source and Seed



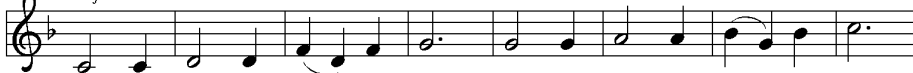
1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to  
 2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to  
 3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to



die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth  
 heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it  
 sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as



wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.  
 touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.  
 Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.

*Refrain*

*Gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,*  
 In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,



*gau - de - a - mus Do mi - no!*  
 in the Lord let us re - joice!

## 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, **Mary** Haynie, **Elaine** Hetzer, **Irisz** Gonda, **Paul** Chambers, 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:** *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

*All stand to sing.*

## Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

### OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in your loving name, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

P O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

## **BLESSING**

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C Amen.**

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

## **Acknowledgments:**

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

Musical Meditation: Valerie Floeter

Gathering Hymn: *God is Here!*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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*Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*

Text: att. Wilhelm II, 1598-1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND, *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628

Hymn of the Day: *The Word of God is Source and Seed*

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: GAUDEAMUS DOMINO, David Hurd, b. 1950

Text © 1983, 1993 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Musical Offering: *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4

Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930

Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Sending Hymn: *Soon and Very Soon*

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./ Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

### **Central Lutheran Church**

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



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

**Pastor: The Rev. Veronika Czutor**

972-904-0245 | reverend.veronika@gmail.com

**Organist: Harold Knight, PhD**

**Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown**  
**Church Office:**

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1000 Easton Rd. Dallas, Texas 75218

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.

Pastor Veronika will be out of the office until Wednesday, July 26. If you need emergency pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Kenny Dickson from King of Glory.

Office: (972) 661-9435 extension 536

Email: [kdickson@kingofglory.com](mailto:kdickson@kingofglory.com)

**Serving in Worship today:** Usher and Lector: Alesia Pearson

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

**Council Meeting:** The council meeting has been postponed a week and will now be **today, right after the service**. All are welcome.

**Back-to-School Bash:** During our back-to-school bash we give out hundreds of backpacks filled with the required DISD school supplies. We need volunteers to help make this event a success. There is a "Count me in" volunteer sheet in the back of the church. **We will fill backpacks for about 30 minutes after church today. We will bless the filled bags and any other school supplies people want to be blessed next Sunday, July 30. The bash itself is on Saturday, August 5 from 8-11 am.** Prayerfully consider where you can be part of this great community event! Contact Alesia Pearson with questions (214-215-7670; [alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net](mailto:alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net)). For more information on how to help go to our website: <https://bit.ly/B2SBCLC>.

**What is a Service of the Word?** At Central Lutheran Church our worship services are most commonly 'Service of the Word and Sacrament'. During Pastor Veronika's time away, we are going to have a 'Service of the Word' led by Ed Fiducia. But what does this mean exactly? Both services have a spiritual dimension, but they differ in emphasis. The service of the Word places a primary focus on the teaching and preaching of the Bible, while the service of the Word and Sacrament adds the sacramental dimension, highlighting the belief in the transformative power of the sacraments as channels of God's grace.

The service of the Word typically refers to a worship service or gathering where the primary focus is on the proclamation and teaching of the Word of God, which is typically understood

to be the Bible. The service of the Word is often centered on the belief that God's Word has the power to transform lives and bring people into a deeper relationship with God. Join us on July 23 at 10:30 am, let's worship God together!



**Scan this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](https://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).

<b>PRAYERS FOR HEALING &amp; COMFORT</b>	
<b>For healing</b> Ruth Steiner Charlotte Breedlove Dawn Gray Joe Rozier Irisz Gonda Selena Dybdahl	<b>Relationship</b> Sister of Susan and Judy Neighbor of Harold Jones Bethany CDC Teacher Friend of Anne Monson Friend of Pastor Veronika Sister of Mary Glenn
<b>Church Members</b> Mary Haynie Don Smith Mario Montejo Kris McDowell Patsy Schoen Yuvonne Muirhead Elaine Hetzer	<b>Those Who Mourn</b> The family and friends of Jan Hare