



Central Lutheran Church

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
July 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

MUSICAL MEDITATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

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.

Amen.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day,
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.

NOW THE FEAST

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



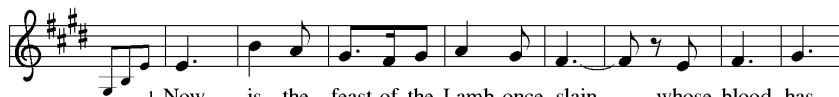
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

it gives understanding | to the simple.

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name.

¹³³Order my footsteps |in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion |over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L Word of God, Word of Life
C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Blessing of the Backpacks

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. 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: 31-33, 44-52

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field,³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Veronika

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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, **Lauryn** Marin, 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: *As the Grains of Wheat*

All stand to sing.

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky,

C you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed...

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 All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, eat what is good.

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.

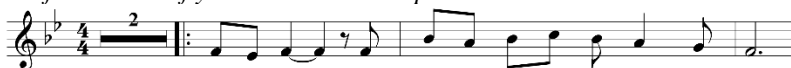
The body of Christ, given for you

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.



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, 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, Loving God,

C Coat the year before us with miracles of your mercy and strength, and help us appreciate most of all the bedrock miracle of your presence with us in every single ordinary, sacred moment. Lead us this school year into life-giving rhythms of grace and light, where our regular routines become the framework for worship and blessing. 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.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 867

In Thee Is Gladness



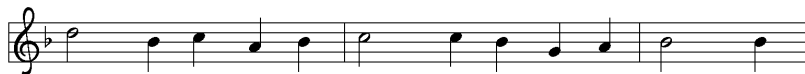
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ning to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *Gather Us In*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Hymn of the Day: *Be Thou My Vision*

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Musical Offering: *As the Grains of Wheat*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Holy

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Lamb of God

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sending Hymn: *In Thee is Gladness*

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt

Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622

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: Judy Koble, and Lector: Carrie Enocksen

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

Dining Around: We will dine on Saturday, August 12 at 5:30 pm at Meso Maya (on 4123 Abrams Rd). All are welcome. Sign the count me in sheet in the narthex, or contact Ylva Wolfgang to RSVP.

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. **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 or to volunteer (214-215-7670; alesia-r-pearson@swbell.net). Thank you to everyone who has provided items and helped us fill bags!

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.

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Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown

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CentralLutheran.org



Scan this QR code (or go to 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) or via phone (214-327-2222).

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT

For healing

Ruth Steiner
 Charlotte Breedlove
 Dawn Gray
 Joe Rozier
 Irisz Gonda
 Lauryn Marin - and her children,
 Stella and Jude
 Selena Dybdahl

Relationship

Sister of Susan and Judy
 Neighbor of Harold Jones
 Bethany CDC Teacher
 Friend of Anne Monson
 Friend of Pastor Veronika
 Bethany CDC Teacher
 Sister of Mary Glenn

Church Members

Mary Haynie
 Don Smith
 Mario Montejo
 Kris McDowell
 Patsy Schoen
 Yuvonne Muirhead
 Elaine Hetzer
 Paul Chambers
 Lydia Landfair