



Central Lutheran Church

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
October 1, 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 on “Lord of All Hopefulness” Jerry van der Pol

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.

At the Name of Jesus



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

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



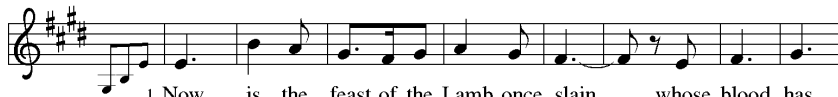
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

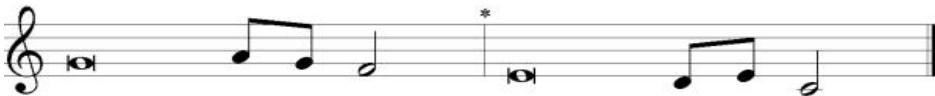
¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 25:1-9

Sung responsively.



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

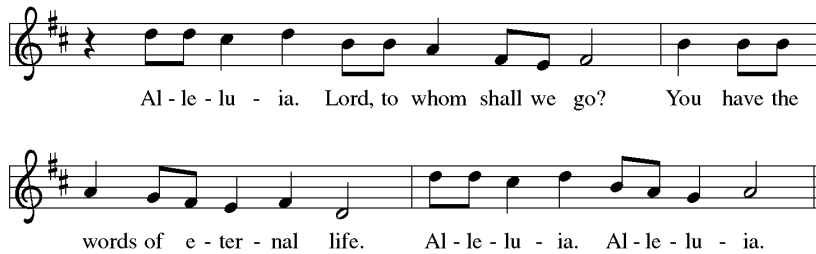
¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Veronika



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Pastor Veronika

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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, and **Rich** Pounds.

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: *O Living Breath of God*

Sung by the choir

O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;

O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth; *Refrain*

O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;

O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew; *Refrain*

O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;

O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth; *Refrain*

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.

O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

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

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray, generous God,

C We thank you for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,

through the one who is our dearest treasure,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 551

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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

Entrance Hymn: *At the Name of Jesus*

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877

Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Music from Songs of Praise, © Oxford University Press 1925

Now the Feast and Celebration

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Hymn of the Day: *Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil*

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Music and Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Musical Offering: *O Living Breath of God*

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

Sending Hymn: *The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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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

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

Organist: Harold Knight, PhD

Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown

Church Office:

214-327-2222 |
central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com

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.

Serving in Worship today: Usher: Lisa Barse, and Lector: Ed Wolfgang. Altar flowers provided by Anne Monson.

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

Sunday School & Lunch: We are having once-a-month "Sunday School" for all ages. Join us for a lunch and discussion of the Bible and our Lutheran heritage after worship. Our second meeting will be **today, after worship in the Parish Hall**. Come join the fellowship and ministry together!

Blessing of the Animals: All well-behaved and vaccinated animals are invited to receive a blessing **outside in our Labyrinth on Saturday, October 7 at 1 pm**. Please use the proper carrier or leash for the safety of all participants. The custom of blessing animals dates back to the 13th century and is often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. We let this day be a reminder to cherish all of God's creation, including our fellow animals. We will also be having a pet costume contest if your animal would like to dress up.

Church Cleanout Day: We will be having another church cleanout day **after worship on Sunday, October 15**.

Offering Envelopes: If you'd like to continue receiving offering envelopes, please let the church office know by calling the office (214-327-2222), or sending an email (central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com).

Note: This year we are doing envelopes a little differently. Instead of ordering envelopes that are dated for every week, we will have DIY envelopes that can be used at any time. This reduces waste so we can be better stewards of God's creation.

What are "Offering envelopes" and what are they good for?

Offering envelopes help churches keep track of donations made by individual members. When a member places cash or a check in the envelope and provides their name and other information, it allows the church to record the donation for tax

purposes and to acknowledge the contribution. Donations made to registered nonprofit organizations like churches are tax-deductible. Offering envelopes provide the necessary documentation for individuals to claim deductions on their income tax returns.

Why is stewardship important?

We, as a church, rely on the financial support of our members to carry out our mission here in East Dallas and in the broader community. It is through your giving that you can support our ministries, care for our community, and ensure the spiritual growth of our congregation.

Fresh Flowers: Fresh flowers and potted plants invite us to reflect on the beauty and mystery of God's creation. In order to help this connection, we are going to stop using plastic flowers on the Altar and other places on the church property. You may contact the church office if you would like to offer fresh flowers or live plants for the Altar.



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
Irisz Gonda
Pr. Rich Pounds
Gaynelle Burk
Dennis Bush
Tracee Bond
Selena Dybdahl

Relationship

Sister of Susan and Judy
Neighbor of Harold Jones
Friend of Pastor Veronika
Former Pastor of Central
Friend of Colby Jones
Friend of Colby Jones
Friend of Charlotte Danielson
Sister of Mary Glenn

Church Members

Lydia Landfair
Don Smith
Mario Montejo
Kris McDowell
Patsy Schoen
Lionel Schoen
Yvonne Muirhead
Paul Chambers

Those we Mourn

Glenna Burley, Joel Glenn's mother

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