



# Central Lutheran Church

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 17, 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 "Forgive Our Sins" Kenneth T. Fosche

**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.**

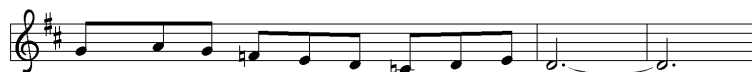
## Gather Us In



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 - ished 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



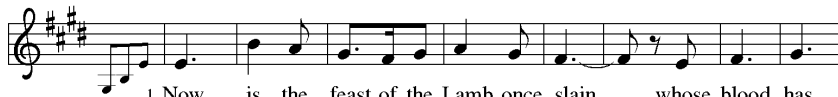
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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 O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Exodus 14:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**



“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my

heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 605

### Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

## 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, **Irisz** Gonda, **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: *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.

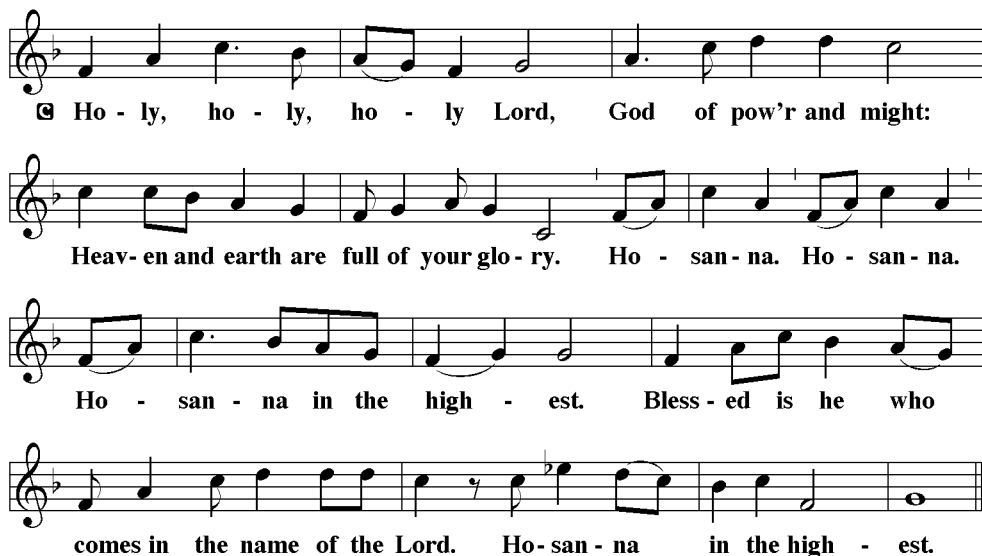
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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



♩ 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.

## 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.*

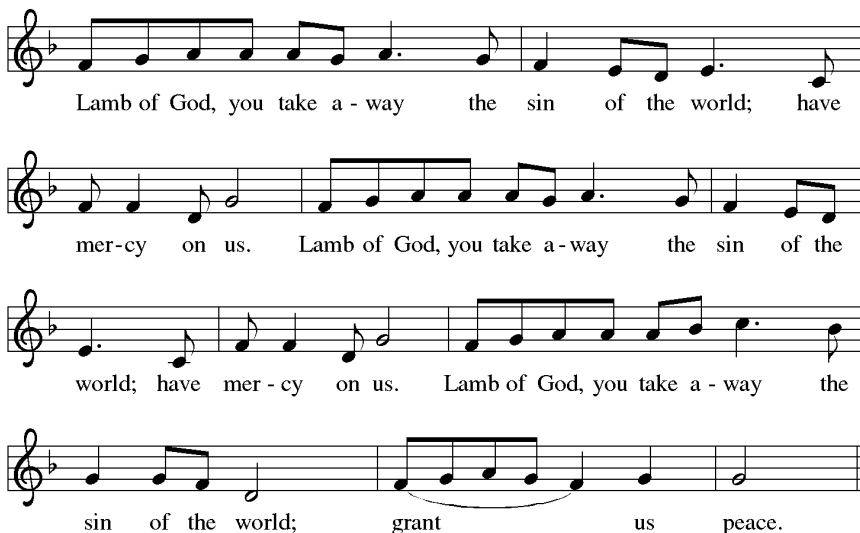
The body of Christ, given for you

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.*



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 864

### Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.  
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## 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: *Gather Us In*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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*Now the Feast and Celebration*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Hymn of the Day: *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Musical Offering: *As the Grains of Wheat*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Sending Hymn: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005

Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880

### 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

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CentralLutheran.org



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.

# 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: Paul Bierwagen and Lector: Paul Chambers

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

**Sunday School & Lunch:** We are trying a new ministry! 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 first meeting will be **today after worship**. We will have lunch then enjoy a multi-generational activity before the kids go to their classes for music, Bible stories, discussion, and crafts. This fall we will study "Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans." Come join the fellowship and ministry together!

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** TMBS will have their first fall meeting this Tuesday, **September 19 at 10:30**. This fall they will be studying the women of the bible. All are welcome to join. For more information, contact Carrie Enocksen.

**North Texas Giving Day:** North Texas Giving Day is **this Thursday, September 21**. Go to [www.northtexasgivingday.org](http://www.northtexasgivingday.org) anytime between now and the 21st to donate to causes you care about. Traffic on the website goes up on the 21st, so giving earlier is easier. Please prayerfully consider giving to our mission partners: White Rock Center of Hope, Mt. Olive Food Pantry, and the NTNL Mission Endowment Fund.

**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 4pm**. 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.

**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](mailto:central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com)).

***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.

**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).

<b>PRAYERS FOR HEALING &amp; COMFORT</b>	
<b>For healing</b> Ruth Steiner Charlotte Breedlove Irisz Gonda Pr. Rich Pounds Gaynelle Burk Dennis Bush Selena Dybdahl	<b>Relationship</b> 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 Sister of Mary Glenn
<b>Church Members</b> Lydia Landfair Don Smith Mario Montejo Kris McDowell Patsy Schoen Lionel Schoen Yuvonne Muirhead Paul Chambers	<b>Those we Mourn</b> Mary Haynie Glenna Burley, Joel Glenn’s mother