



Central Lutheran Church

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 24, 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 "Thine the Amen" Kevin Hildebrand

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.

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

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



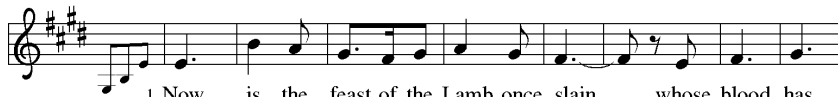
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

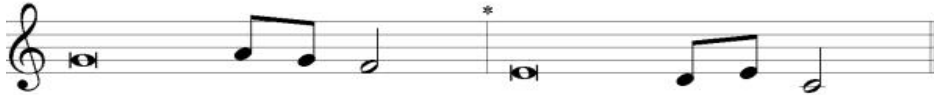
¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 145:1-8

Sung responsively.



- ¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ²**Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**
- ³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
- ⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.**
- ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
- ⁶**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**
- ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- ⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God



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

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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: Will You Let me be Your Servant

Sung by the choir

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

*We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too*

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 669

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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: *Thine the Amen*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Now the Feast and Celebration

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Hymn of the Day: *Take My Life, That I May Be*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

Musical Offering: *Will You Let me be Your Servant*

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Text © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music) /ASCAP, c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Sending Hymn: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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Organist: Harold Knight, PhD

Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown

Church Office:

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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: Ushers: Anne Monson & David Hopson, and Lector: Carrie Enocksen

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

Church Cleanout/ Workday: We are having a Church-wide workday **today, after worship**. We are focusing on decluttering our shared spaces to make room for new growth. Lunch will be provided.

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 **next Sunday, October 1, after worship**. 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 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).

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.

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



Scan this QR code (or go to linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or donate online.