

Central Lutheran Church

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 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.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

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



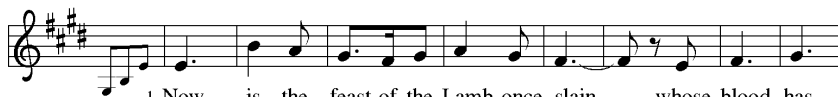
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Ashley & TJ Goins



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Pastor Veronika

For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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, **Ruth** Steiner, 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: *For Where Love is, There is God*

Sung by the choir

Come as strangers to the altar, for where love is, there is God.

Come you poor, you weak, who falter, for where love is, there is God.

*Song and scripture wed together, bound by faith in sacred Word,
sharing peace and consolation, for where love is, there is God.*

*Let us each love one another, for where love is, there is God,
and embrace as sister, brother, for where love is, there is God.*

Heal our hurting, lift our spirits, cease our cold, contentious ways.

Spread the grace of love unending, for where love is, there is God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

*Alleluia, alleluia, for where love is, there is God.
For where love is, there is God*

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



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.

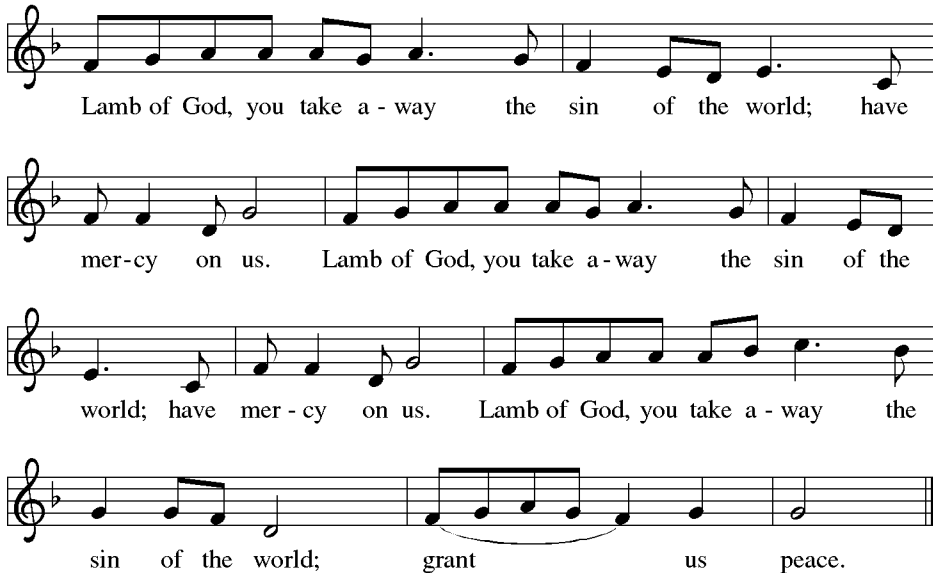
COMMUNION

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.

Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

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: *The Church's One Foundation*

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Now the Feast and Celebration

Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Hymn of the Day: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Musical Offering: *For Where Love is, There is God*

Words: Charlotte Lee

Music: American Hymn Tune (1844)

Sending Hymn: *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710

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:

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 and Lector: Alesia Pearson.

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

The October Church Council Meeting is today after the worship service. All are welcome at every council meeting.

Church Cleanout Day: We will be having another church cleanout day **after the worship service 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 & Eddie Steiner

Charlotte Breedlove

Irisz Gonda

Pr. Rich Pounds

Frank Burk

Dennis Bush

Tracee Bond

Selena Dybdahl

Relationship

Sister & Brother-in-law of Susan Wrobbel and Judy Koble

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