



Central Lutheran Church

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

**Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor
Harold Knight, PhD, Music Director
Rachel Brown, Administrative Assistant**

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 & FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 436

- 1 *Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share; go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.*
- 2 *Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.*
- 3 *Gloria! Let heav'n adore you! Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming, lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know! There sweet delight will ever flow.*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

P Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C Amen.

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.

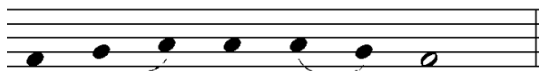
KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



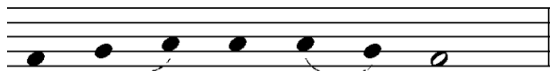
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



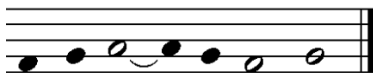
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

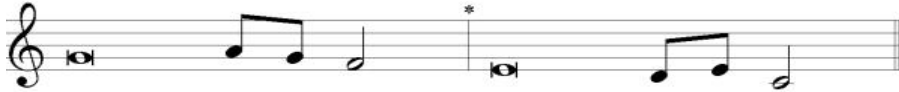
¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Sung responsively.



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- ³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**
- ⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

He Came Down



He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



He came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-ia for-ev-er- more.

All: (Repeat) **He came down**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for

you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 260

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

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 Merciful God

C Receive our prayer.

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Selena** Dybdahl, **Paul** Chambers, **Harold** Jones,
and **Ruth** Steiner.

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: Savior of the Nations, Come

Sung by the choir

Savior of the nations come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, by the spirit of our God,
Was the word of God made flesh- woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

From the Father forth He came captive leading death and hell
High the song of triumph swell!

Praise the God the father sing, praise to God the son, our king,
Praise to God the spirit be ever and eternally.

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C 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 - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy One, ...

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

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 Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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

Gathering Hymn: *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite

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Hymn of the Day: *The King Shall Come*

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Musical Offering: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

arr. by Carl Schalk

Sending Hymn: *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

<h2>Central Lutheran Church</h2>	
	
<p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p>	
<p>Pastor: The Rev. Veronika Czutor 972-904-0245 reverend.veronika@gmail.com</p> <p>Music Director: Harold Knight, PhD harchie74@gmail.com</p> <p>Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown 214-327-2222 central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com</p>	<p>1000 Easton Rd. Dallas, TX 75218</p> <p>www.CentralLutheran.org</p> <p>www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas</p>

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 Sara Jutton; and Lector: Jan Moody; Flowers courtesy of Anne Monson

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

Sunday School & Lunch: We have once-a-month "Sunday School" for all ages. Join us for a lunch and discussion of the Bible and our Lutheran heritage. Our last meeting of 2023 will be **today, after worship**. Come join the fellowship and ministry together!

Advent Vespers & Soup Supper: Join our Advent Vespers & Soup Supper during this Advent season! On Wednesdays (**December 6, 13, and 20**), we're coming together to prepare for the arrival of Jesus. **We start at 6:00 pm with a soup and sandwich dinner. At 6:45 pm, we'll transition into vespers, an intimate and reflective time.** This gathering is in partnership with Emanuel Lutheran Church, extending an open invitation to all who seek a midweek reprieve from the holiday hustle. Embrace the spirit of the season with us!

And if a daytime service suits you better, First United Lutheran has you covered with a noon service on Wednesdays throughout Advent. Find them at 6202 E Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX 75214. Everyone is welcome to find solace and joy in these moments of reflection and community. Will we be seeing you there?

Poinsettia Orders: You may honor friends and family by purchasing poinsettias, which will decorate the altar during Christmas Eve. You may **purchase a poinsettia plant for \$15** (cash, check, or online donations are all acceptable). If you purchase a poinsettia, please fill out a pink order form so we know whom you are honoring with your purchase. You may take your poinsettia(s) home after the worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24.

ELCA Good Gifts Catalog: As members of the ELCA, we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. The items in this catalog are

real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. For more information, see their flyer in the back of the sanctuary or visit their website: www.goodgifts.elca.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 & Eddie Steiner

Charlotte Breedlove

Irisz Gonda

Tracee Bond

Elizabeth Chavez

Selena Dybdahl

Relationship

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

Neighbor of Harold Jones

Friend of Pastor Veronika

Friend of Charlotte Danielson

Executive Director of New Horizons

Sister of Mary Glenn

Church Members

Lydia Landfair

Don Smith

Mario Montejo

Kris McDowell

Yvonne Muirhead

Paul Chambers

Harold Jones