

# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany  
January 28, 2024**

**The 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 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, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,  
**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always  
loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not  
always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your  
covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good  
news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your  
sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**

## God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - mighty - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

# GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

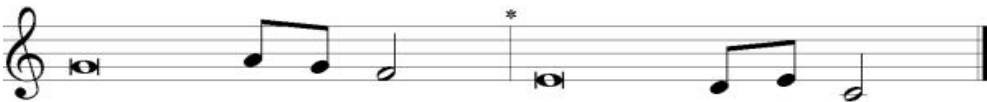
[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 111

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your | works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;  
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to | those who fear you,  
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power | of your works  
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;  
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

**<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;  
holy and awesome | is your name.

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures  
forever**

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Pastor Veronika**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord

### READING OF THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

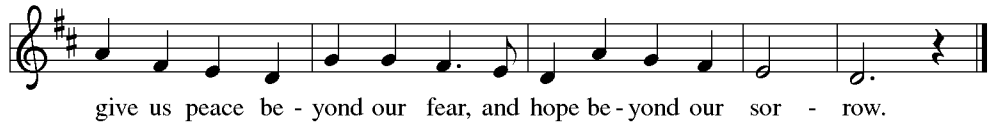
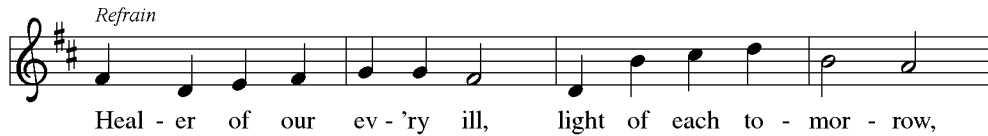
C Praise to you O Christ

### SERMON

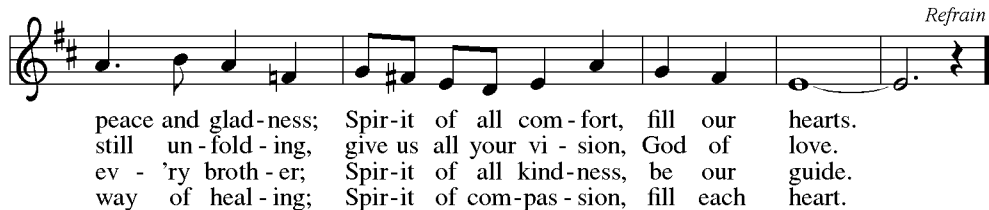
*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Pastor Veronika**

## Healer of Our Every Ill



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



## 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 God of grace,

**C Receive our prayer.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Selena** Dybdahl, **Paul** Chambers, **Robin** Holland, and **Linda** Gourley.

*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: There Is a Longing

*Sung by the choir*

*Refrain* There is a longing of hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.

There is a longing of hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom for mercy: hear our prayer.

In sorrow in grief: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.  
In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.  
We call you, we wait: be near, hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**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 Blessed are you, O holy God...Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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 At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

C **Thanks be to God**

## COMMUNION

*Communion will be served at the altar rail, and you have the option to kneel or stand. The consecrated host will be immersed in the chalice and then placed in your hand. If your preference is to receive only the host, please communicate that to the ministers. We have gluten-free options available. Alternatively, if you'd prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms in front of your chest. Currently, there is no consecrated grape juice available.*

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 Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## BLESSING

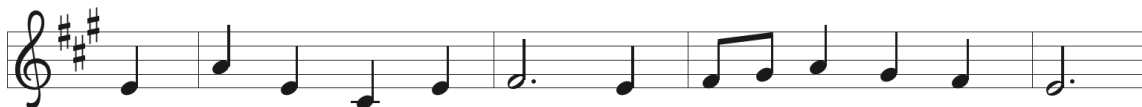
P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 314

### Arise, Your Light Has Come!



- 1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *God, Whose Almighty Word*

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

Hymn of the Day: *Healer of Our Every Ill*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

Musical Offering: *There Is a Longing*

Music & Text: Anne Quigley

© 1992, Anne Quigley, Published by OCP.

Sending Hymn: *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

## Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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[www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas)

# 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

**Note:** The church office will be closed tomorrow, and will resume normal hours on Tuesday.

**Serving in Worship today:** Usher: Mary Glenn, and Lector: Jeff Lowry

**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 next meeting will be next **Sunday, February 4, after the worship service.** For lunch, we will a salad bar. **We are looking for volunteers to bring food.** See the Count-me-in sheet in the narthex to sign up to bring something. Come join the fellowship and ministry together! All are welcome!

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 18 at noon** for the annual meeting. This is a crucial gathering where we come together as a community to hear the 2023 reports from our dedicated council leaders and to vote for our new council members and the budget for 2024. After the meeting, let's continue the fellowship with our much-anticipated annual **Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Bake-Off!** Bring your best recipes and get ready for a delicious time of tasting and friendly conversations. This is not just an opportunity to engage in the important decisions of our community but also a chance to enjoy the warmth of fellowship and the joy of good food.

**Dallas Theater Center Presents I AM DELIVERED'T:** Would you like to see a comedy at the theater about church life? We're planning to have a field trip as a group, just let us know if you'd like to join us to see "I am Delivered't", written by Jonathan Norton at the Dallas Theater Center this February.

**ELCA Congregations Lead Initiative Program:** Our congregation had been selected to participate in this 6 months intensive program where a team of 3-5 individuals from our congregation is going to learn new tools, resources and do practical ministry to help us become more adaptable and relevant in our neighborhood. This program uses the design thinking framework to guide participants in their innovation process. If you are interested in participating, contact the church office or Pastor Veronika.



Scan this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](http://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](mailto:central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com)) or via phone (214-327-2222).

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT**

**For healing**

Irisz Gonda  
Tracee Bond  
Paula & Robin Holland  
Michael DuCote  
Frank Seuberling  
Linda Gourley  
Selena Dybdahl

**Relationship**

Friend of Pastor Veronika  
Friend of Charlotte Danielson  
Friends of Anne Monson  
Friend of Rachel Brown  
Friend of Harold Knight  
Sister of Julie Atkins  
Sister of Mary Glenn

**Church Members**

Lydia Landfair  
Don Smith  
Mario Montejo  
Kris McDowell  
Yuvonne Muirhead  
Paul Chambers