



Central Lutheran Church

**Baptism of our Lord
January 7, 2024**

**The Rev. Dr. Greg Smith
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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our rock and refuge,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

GREETING AND PRAYER

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 Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5

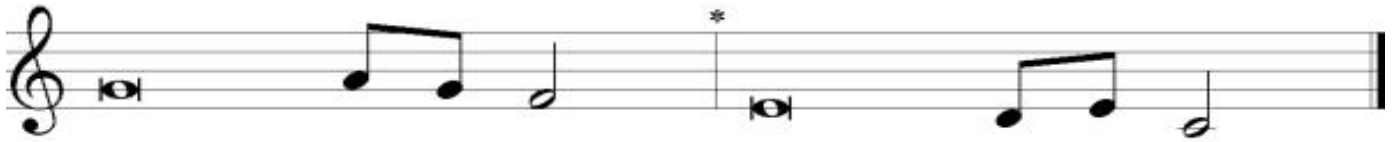
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 29

Sung responsively.



¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;**

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace

SECOND LESSON: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Alesia Pearson

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 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was

clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Greg Smith

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God

from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

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, **Eloy** Aguirre, **Robin** Holland, 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: Come and Journey with the Saviour

Sung by the choir

Come and journey with the Saviour who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters, and who loved us on the earth.

Refrain: Come and journey, come and journey with the Saviour who has
come. We are all God's sons and daughters; in the Spirit we are one.

Come and journey, journey inward, come and seek him deep within,
where he meets us in our living, in our striving and our sin.

Refrain

Come and journey, journey outward, telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory, of his cross and of the shame.

Refrain

Come and journey, journey outward, where that cross calls us to care,
where injustice and where hunger and the poor call us to share.

Refrain

Come and journey, journey upward. Sing his praises, offer prayer.
In the storm and in the stillness find his presence everywhere.

Refrain

Come and journey, journey onward; all our gifts we now shall bring
to the building of a city that is holy, Christ its King.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy One... 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 At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

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 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

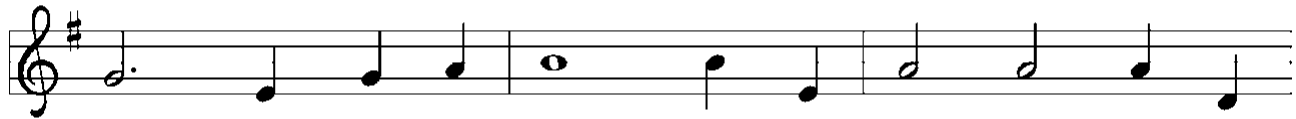
P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who
dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Text: William C. Dix 1837-1898, alt

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher 1786-1872

Hymn of the Day: *Christ, When for Us, You Were Baptized*

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

Sending Hymn: *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult*

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851-1922

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors, we are glad to have you with us and invite you to come again!

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm

Pastor Veronika will be out of town until January 12. Should you need pastoral care during this time, please contact **Pastor Tom Schwolert** (Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Garland, TX) email: pastor@gloriadeigarland.org cell: 214-995-1720

Serving in Worship today: Ushers: Anne Monson, and David Hopson; Lector: Alesia Pearson.

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

Lunch & Sunday School: Join us for a lunch and discussion of the Bible and our Lutheran heritage. Our first meeting of 2024 is **today after the worship service**. For lunch, we will have hot dogs, brats, salad, and peanut butter sandwiches. Come join the fellowship and ministry together! All are welcome!

Last Call for Poinsettias: If you would like a poinsettia plant, today is your last chance to take one home.



Open 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

Selena Dybdahl

Irisz Gonda

Paula & Robin Holland

Eloy Aguirre

Michael DuCote

Frank Seuberling

Tracee Bond

Relationship

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

Sister of Mary Glenn

Friend of Pastor Veronika

Friends of Anne Monson

Friend of Pastor Veronika

Friend of Rachel Brown

Friend of Harold Knight

Friend of Charlotte Danielson

Church Members

Don Smith

Mario Montejo

Kris McDowell

Yuvonne Muirhead

Lydia Landfair

Paul Chambers

Those We Mourn

Vivian Curry