



Central Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 4, 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.

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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 Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

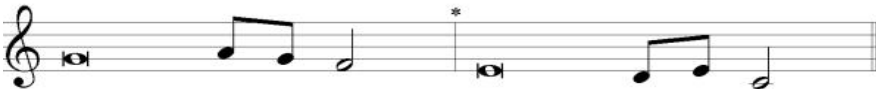
²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

Sung responsively.



¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,**
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.

- ³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.
- ⁴**The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.**
- ⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
- ⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**
- ⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the
mountains.**
- ⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
- ¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**
- ¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} | Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

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 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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 574

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

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, Linda Gourley, Sara Navarro Ruiz, Erik Rojas Cobo.**

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: God Sends Us Forth

Sung by the choir

God sends us forth to love and serve, Make known God's name and live God's word,
Mirror God's love, reflect God's grace Till all have seen the Savior's face.

Nourished by Christ, our Word and Bread, Burning with love and Spirit-led, Sent to
embrace a world in need, To make God known in word and deed.

Called to the ones the world ignores- Hungry and thirsty, weak and poor- Let us bear
Christ, who heals all pain And comforts those bowed down by shame.

So, with the cross to lead the way, Let us go forth in peace to day, And to the ends of earth make known, The saving love our God has shown.

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 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.


O Zion, Haste



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp-tion, and re - lease.

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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

Gathering Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

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Hymn of the Day: *Here I am, Lord*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Musical Offering: *God Sends Us Forth*

Text & Music: Tony E. Alonso, b. 1980

Music & Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

Sending Hymn: *O Zion, Haste*

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837-1901

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; Lector: Paul Chambers

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. **We are meeting today after the worship service.** For lunch, we will a salad bar. Come join the fellowship and ministry together! All are welcome!

Dining Around: This month the Dining Around group will go to **Alfonso's Italian Restaurant** (718 Buckner Blvd. Suite #222 Dallas, TX 75218) at **5:30 pm on Saturday, February 10.** Sign the count-me-in sheet in the back of the church or talk to Ed Wolfgang to RSVP.

Ash Wednesday Community Office Hours: On February 14 from 7:30 to 10:30 am Pastor Veronika will hold “office hours at Ascension Coffee” (9353 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX 75218). Stop by to grab a coffee, receive your ashes, and chat with Pastor Veronika.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service: On February 14 at 6:00 pm all will have the opportunity to receive ashes, celebrate Holy Communion, and reflect on the beginning of the Lenten season.

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. We are going to see "I am Delivered't", written by Jonathan Norton, **at the Kalita Humphreys Theater on February 15 at 7:15 pm.** To RSVP, sign the count-me-in sheet in the back of the church or contact the church office.

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.

ELCA Congregations Lead Initiative Program: Our congregation had been selected to participate in this six-month 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.**

Volunteers Needed to help with New Horizons After School Reading and Tutoring program at Central. Duties will include helping with homework and reading stories to children ages 5 to 11. You will be security screened prior to beginning. The schedule is 3-6 pm Monday through Thursday. You can do one day a week or one day a month. The kids are adorable. The staff is great. You will receive far more than you give! If you are interested, contact Anne Monson at 214-264-8078 or annemonson@sbcglobal.net.



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

Irisz Gonda
Tracee Bond
Paula & Robin Holland
Michael DuCote
Frank Seuberling
Linda Gourley
Sara Navarro Ruiz
Erik Rojas Cobo
Karen Sabattis
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
Friend of Victor Chacon
Friend of Victor Chacon
Sister of Janet Rashbaum
Sister of Mary Glenn

Church Members

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

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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