

Central Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 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.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C Amen.

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

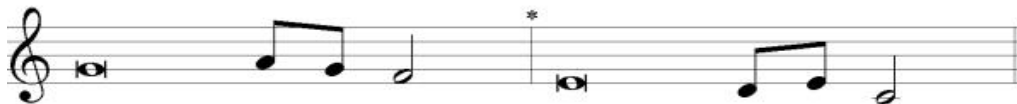
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 51:1-12

Sung responsively.



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TJ & Ashley Goins

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Pastor Veronika

O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

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 Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Selena** Dybdahl, **Paul** Chambers, **Linda** Gourley, **Karen** Sabattis, **Pat** Adair, and **Ylva** Wolfgang.

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

ELW 465

Sung by the congregation

Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love.
Refrain

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you.
Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

P Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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.

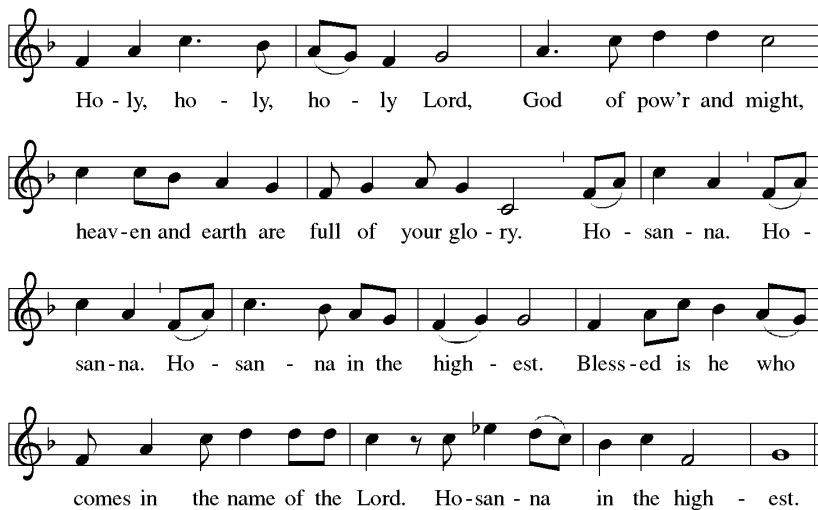
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . (*prayer concludes*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.... (*prayer continues*)

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

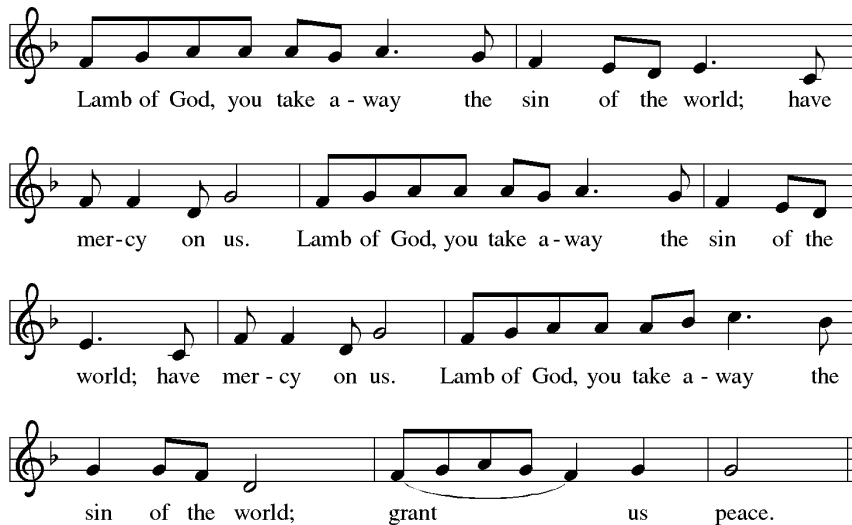
Communion will be served at the altar rail, and you have the option to kneel or stand. The consecrated host will be immersed in the chalice and then placed in your hand. If your preference is to receive only the host, please communicate that to the ministers. We have gluten-free options available. Alternatively, 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 Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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Gathering Hymn: *Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us*

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Hymn of the Day: *O Christ, Our Hope*

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.

Music: LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

Musical Offering: *As the Grains of Wheat*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

Sending Hymn: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

Text © 1991 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Pastor Veronika's Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm; other days/times by appointment

Serving in Worship Today: Usher: Sara Jutton & Judy Koble, and Lector: Carrie Enocksen

Congregational Meeting: We will have a Congregation-wide meeting **after worship today**. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on spending \$81,700 of the Bethany legacy funds to update the HVAC system in the sanctuary.

Spring Festival Egg-Filling: Our Spring Festival is next Saturday, March 23. After the congregational meeting **today, we are asking volunteers** to stay in the Parish Hall and help fill eggs with candy and prepare crafts for the festival. Thank you!

Midweek Lenten Worship & Supper: We will joyfully join together with our siblings at Emmanuel Lutheran for our midweek Lenten worship at Central. **We will meet at 6:00pm for a supper of soup and sandwiches. Then at 7:00pm Pastor Rachel Ringlaben will lead us in worship using *Holden Evening Prayer*.** Pastor Veronika will turn our focus to the Psalms- a source of depth and wonder used in worship for over 3,000 years. **This week will be our last Wednesday service of Lent.** All are welcome!

Lenten Collections: We have two collections during this Lenten season. If you can help with either of these collections, please bring your donations to the worship services (on Sunday or Wednesday). Thank you for your generosity!

1. During our mid-week worship services on Wednesdays, we will collect monetary donations for the North Texas-North Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders. This fund benefits seminarians from our synod who are studying for vocations in ministry. To learn more about the fund go to the NT-NL's website (ntnl.org).
2. Throughout Lent will also collect food for our local food pantry at White Rock Center of Hope. We will deliver the food items on March 26. We are aiming to collect 20 of each of the following:
 - canned soup
 - cereal
 - boxed meals
 - bisquick mix
 - instant mashed potatoes
 - granola bars
 - bags of flour
 - cooking oil

Sanctuary Cleaning Day: We have returned to worshipping in our sanctuary. **Next Sunday, March 24** we will gather after the worship service to spruce up the sanctuary. We will need help washing windows, vacuuming, hanging banners, etc. To keep our volunteers motivated, **pizza will be provided.** Thanks!

T-Shirt Orders: It is time for us to get some t-shirts that we can wear when we are doing volunteer and service events in or for our community! The shirts will be \$10 each. Financial assistance to cover the full cost is also available if needed. We want everyone who wants one to get one! To order a shirt, talk to Alesia Pearson or email the church office (Central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com) with your name and shirt size.

Service Day: On **Saturday, April 6 at 9am**, we will have a service day at White Rock Center of Hope in partnership with Boy Scout Troop 861. This is a wonderful opportunity to help our neighbors while also growing in our ministry mindsets as well. This time around we will be serving by bringing carts and boxes of food to waiting cars. Because of this, if you plan to volunteer make sure you can easily lift 25 pounds and can be on your feet for a couple hours. Hope to see you there!

Holy Week Schedule:

- Palm Sunday Worship- *March 24* 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday Worship- *March 28* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Worship- *March 29* 6:00 pm



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
 Frank Seuberling
 Linda Gourley
 Sara Navarro Ruiz
 Erik Rojas Cobo
 Karen Sabattis
 Jerry Quarles
 Steve
 Pat Adair
 Maribeth Kilday
 Johnathon Prestenberg
 Selena Dybdahl

Relationship

Friend of Pastor Veronika
 Friend of Harold Knight
 Sister of Julie Atkins
 Friend of Victor Chacon
 Friend of Victor Chacon
 Sister of Janet Rashbaum
 Cousin of Lisa Barse
 Friend of Rachel Brown
 Mother of Stefani Adair
 Friend of Myke Riley
 Friend of Jan Moody
 Sister of Mary Glenn

Church Members

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