



Central Lutheran Church

**Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 2025**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor
Dr. Joe Henry, 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

PRELUDE: *Praise to You, Jesus Christ!*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God
We are marching, marching, we are marching, Oo,
We are marching in the light of God
We are marching, marching, we are marching, Oo,
We are marching in the light of God

We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, Oo,
We are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, Oo,
We are dancing in the light of God

We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God
We are praying, praying, we are praying, Oo,
We are praying in the light of God
We are praying, praying, we are praying, Oo,
We are praying in the light of God

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God
We are singing, singing, we are singing, Oo,
We are singing in the light of God
We are singing, singing, we are singing, Oo,
We are singing in the light of God

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 Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

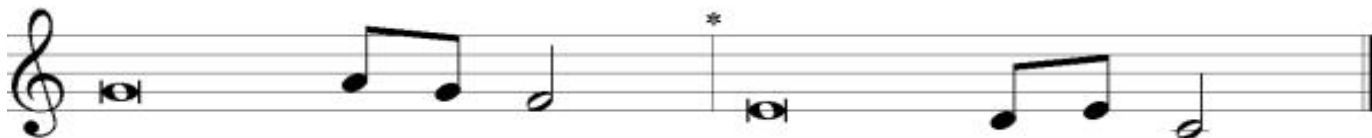
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 84

Sung responsively.



¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling,
O | Lord of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where
she may | lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king | and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell | in your house!
They will always be | praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place
of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

⁸ **Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob.**

⁹ Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand
elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents | of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and

glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk | with
integrity.

¹² **O | Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

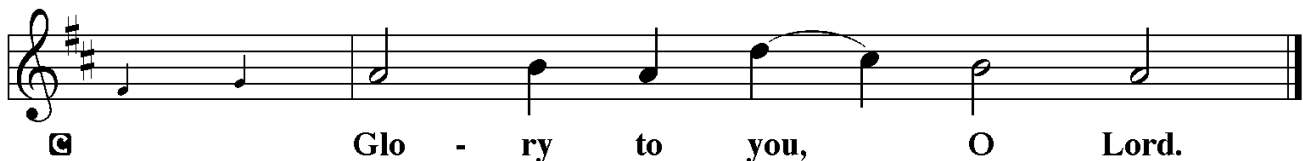
L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.



READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall

be designated as holy to the Lord”),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Pastor Veronika

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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 With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Brenda** Burden, **Charlene** Zimmermann, and **Paul** Chambers.

The prayers conclude:

P ...We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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: Oh How Amiable

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,

And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

Even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:

They will be always praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:

Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

O prosper thou our handiwork!

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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 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 The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

As you come forward for Holy Communion, please sanitize your hands. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail, where you may choose to kneel or stand. The bread will be placed in your hand, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request—please inform the ministers if needed. The Communion cups contain red wine and white grape juice. If you prefer to receive only the bread, let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Hail this Brightest Day of Days*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Nourishing God,

C at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C Amen.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Toccata in C Major*

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Prelude: *Praise to You, Jesus Christ!*

Music: Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Gathering Hymn: *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming (1984)

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Hymn of the Day: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885), alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Musical Offering: *O How Amiable*

Text & Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Musical Meditation: *Hail this Brightest Day of Days*

Music: Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Sending Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, (1934-)

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

Postlude: *Toccata in C Major*

Music: Johann Bachbel (1653-1706)

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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

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

You may make an appointment with Pastor Veronika by calling the church office.

Serving in Worship today: Ushers: Lisa Barse; Lector: Alesia Pearson; Assistant Minister: Jeff Lowry

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study has begun meetings for the new year. They meet every Tuesday in the conference room at 10:30am. All adults are welcome to join. Contact the church office for more information.

Dining Around is a group that meets one Saturday a month to join together for fellowship at various local restaurants. Next month, they are meeting at on **Saturday, February 15 at 5:30 pm at Fish City Grill** (7170 Skillman St. Dallas, TX 75231- near Sprouts). According to google, the price per meal is around \$20-30. Gluten free options are available. To RSVP, please sign up in the back of the church.

Celebrate our new Music Director: On **Sunday, February 16, at noon**, we will welcome and celebrate our new music director, Dr. Joe Henry. Stay after worship to learn about Joe, his background, what inspires him about church music, and how you can get involved with music ministry here at Central.

NT-NL Synod Assembly Registration Opens Tomorrow: A Synod is a group of ELCA churches in a specified region (in our case, Northern Texas/ Northern Louisiana). The Synod Assembly happens once a year in April. During the assembly, attendees discuss how our Synod-wide ministries are faring, and how we can improve in the coming year. It's also a chance to network with others in our Synod. It's a spiritually nourishing experience that connects us with the wider ELCA church. The NT-NL Synod Assembly will be in **Lubbock, TX on April 25-26**. Registration for the Synod assembly opens tomorrow, February 3rd. For more information visit: www.ntnl.org/event/2025-nt-nl-synod-assembly/



Open this QR code (or go to linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or make your offering 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

Archie and Rebecca Huizenga
Linda Gourley
Ed Andrewson
Robin Friedrich
Jover Veraguas
Norma Ruth Myrick
Gail Oehler
Sylvia Chadwick
Elizabeth Cardenas
Karen Spitzer
Bonnie Knight Sato
Brenda Burden
Charlene Zimmermann
Elizabeth Brownsted

Relationship

Friends of Janis Farrow
Sister of Julie Atkins
Friend of Anne Monson
Friend of Mary Glenn
Brother of Ruth Chambers
Mother of Alesia Pearson
Friend of Beth Garcia
Mother of Mary Glenn
Daughter of Irene Hallmon
Mother of Kristy Hamlin
Sister of Harold Knight
Friend of Jean Staffeld
Aunt of Jan Moody
Friend of Janis Farrow

Church Members

Don Smith
Mario Montejo
Kris McDowell
Nancy Nulisch
Carol Paschetag
Paul Chambers

Yuvonne Muirhead
Lydia Landfair
Mary Swenson
Judy Christiansen
Suzanne Schwenn