



Central Lutheran Church

**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
February 23, 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: *Prelude in Classic Style*

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.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

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 Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

L Word of God, Word of Life

PSALM 37:1-11; 39-40

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- | sess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you,
O Lord;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in
you | they seek refuge

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

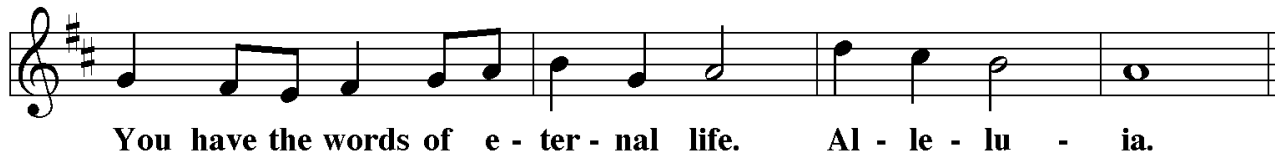
⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

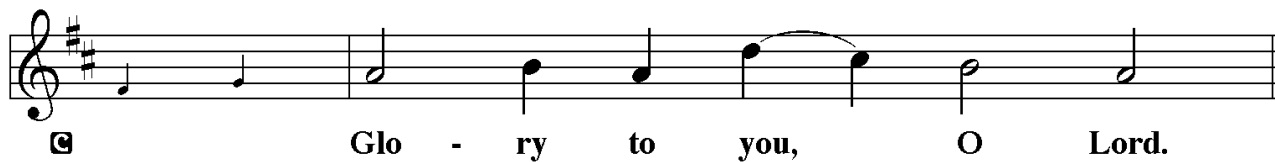
L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Veronika

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 615

In All Our Grief



1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
2 Help us to put a - side the an - gry word,
3 You did not e - ven spare your on - ly Son.
4 God, when we suf - fer all that we can bear,



O God, you know all that we think or do,
the clench - ing fist, the wish and will to hurt.
He lived our griefs and bore all e - vil done,
then let us know that you in truth are near



you know the pain we put each oth - er through.
Teach us the way in which love best is served.
but through his cross, re - demp - tion has been won.
and will not leave us lost in all our fear.

Refrain



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, grant us peace.

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: *Draw us in the Spirit's Tether*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name

Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,

Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,

Alleluia! Alleluia! so knit Thou our friendship up.

*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.*

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: *Pastorale in G Major*

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.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



- 1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Sinfonia from the Oratorio "Solomon"*

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Prelude: *Prelude in Classic Style*
Music: Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Gathering Hymn: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*
Text: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln (1623)

Hymn of the Day: *In All Our Grief*
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)
Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders (b. 1929)
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Musical Offering: *Draw us in the Spirit's Tether*
Text & Music: Harold W. Friedell (1905-1958)

Musical Meditation: *Pastorale in G Major*
Music: Samuel B. Whitney (1842-1914)

Sending Hymn: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*
Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Postlude: *Sinfonia from the Oratorio "Solomon"*
Music: Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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: Usher: Alesia Pearson

Hooked on Love: Hooked on Love (a crochet and knitting ministry) will meet on **Saturday, March 1 from 1-4 pm at Knit Dallas** (Mockingbird and Abrams). All are welcome. Bring your projects!

Ash Wednesday is on March 5: Join us as we begin our Lenten journey. "Ashes to Go" will be available in the morning at Ascension Coffee on Garland Rd. We will gather for an Imposition of Ashes service in the evening at 6:00 in our sanctuary. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and need for repentance.

Midweek Lenten Vespers: For the following five weeks, we will walk through Lent together—a season of reflection, renewal, and drawing closer to God. Join us on **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for Midweek Services and a Soup Supper** as we journey in faith.

Service Day: We will have a service day at White Rock Center of Hope on **Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9:00 am.** They have jobs for people of any ability. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or email Rachel in the church office.

WELCA Retreat: Join the Dallas Area Women of the ELCA at their spring retreat on **April 5, 2025, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** with keynote speech by our very own, Pastor Veronika Czutor! The retreat will be at **Christ the Servant Lutheran Church** (821 S. Greenville Ave, Allen, TX 75002). **Early Bird registration is \$20 and ends on March 15.** Fees include lunch and childcare. Scholarships are available if needed. For more information call Pam Grosze at 918-978-4046 or email her at pgrosze@tx.rr.com.



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
Robin Friedrich
Jover Veraguas
Norma Ruth Myrick
Gail Oehler
Elizabeth Cardenas
Brenda Burden
Charlene Zimmermann
Elizabeth Brownsted

Relationship

Friends of Janis Farrow
Sister of Julie Atkins
Friend of Mary Glenn
Brother of Ruth Chambers
Mother of Alesia Pearson
Friend of Beth Garcia
Daughter of Irene Hallmon
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