

# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday of Lent  
March 16, 2025**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor  
Dr. Joseph 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:** *Andante un poco Adagio from Sonata in F minor for Clarinet and Piano*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Compassionate One,

**C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**C Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Sung by the choir.*

*Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,  
All desires known and from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## GREETING

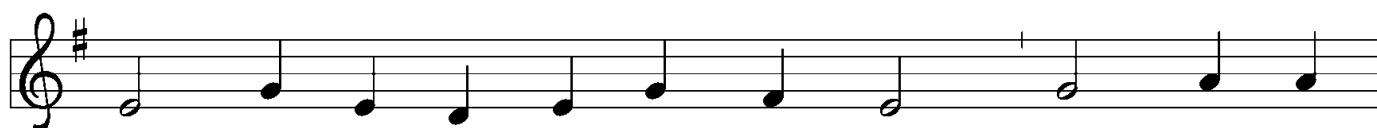
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

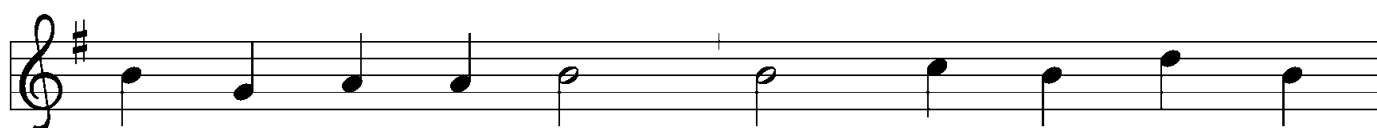
## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW 320**

### The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

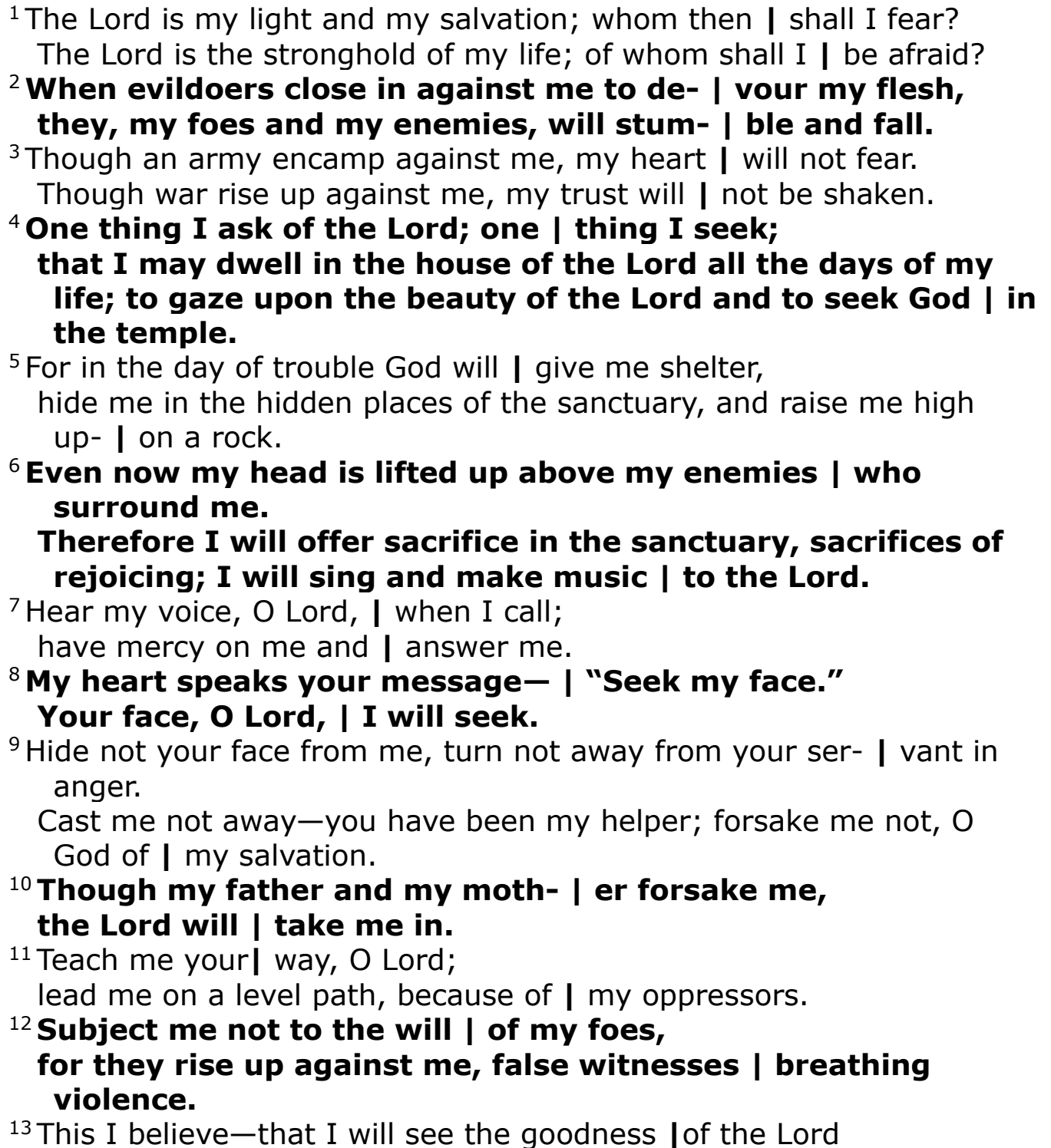
<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

*Sung responsively.*

*Sung responsively.*



in the land | of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the Lord | and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait | for the Lord!**

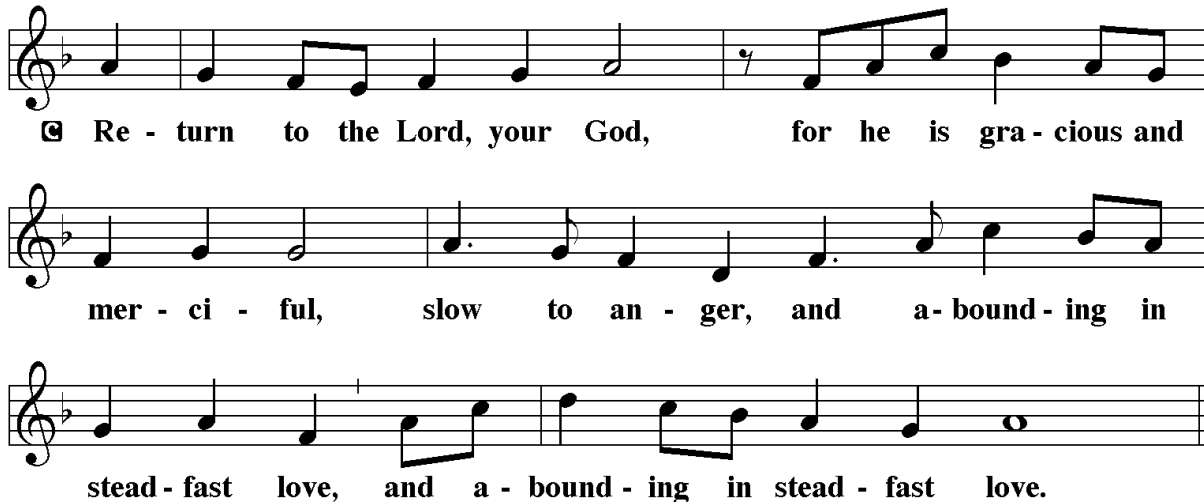
## **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## **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 Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

## **READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow,

and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 788**

If God My Lord Be for Me



1 If God my Lord be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood  
 3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, my sun, my light, a - lone;  
 4 For joy my heart is ring - ing; all sor - row dis - ap - pears;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
 a - lone are my sal - va - tion, the true, e - ter - nal good.  
 were he not my de - fend - er be - fore the judg - ment throne,  
 and full of mirth and sing - ing, it wipes a - way all tears.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,  
 With - out him all that pleas - es will vain and emp - ty prove.  
 I nev - er should find fa - vor and mer - cy in God's sight,  
 The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my king;



what foe or what di - sas - ter can drive me from his love?  
 The gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone are worth my love.  
 but be de - stroyed for - ev - er as dark - ness by the light.  
 the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

## **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, in your mercy, **C Receive our prayer.**

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Brenda** Burden, **Charlene** Zimmermann, **Elizabeth** Brownsted, **Susie**, 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: *Lord, Sanctify me Wholly*

*Lord, sanctify me wholly,  
That my whole spirit, soul and body may become Thy temple.  
O do Thou dwell in me, and be Thou my God,  
And I will be Thy servant.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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.**

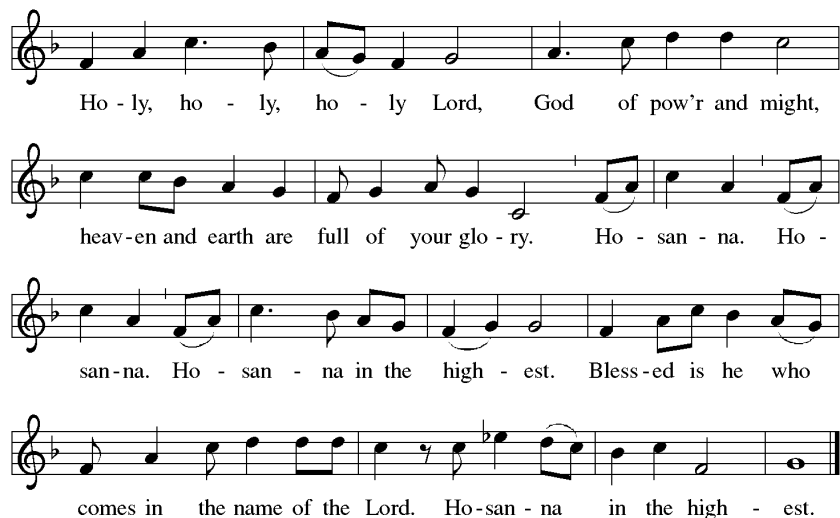
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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'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....

...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 All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

**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*

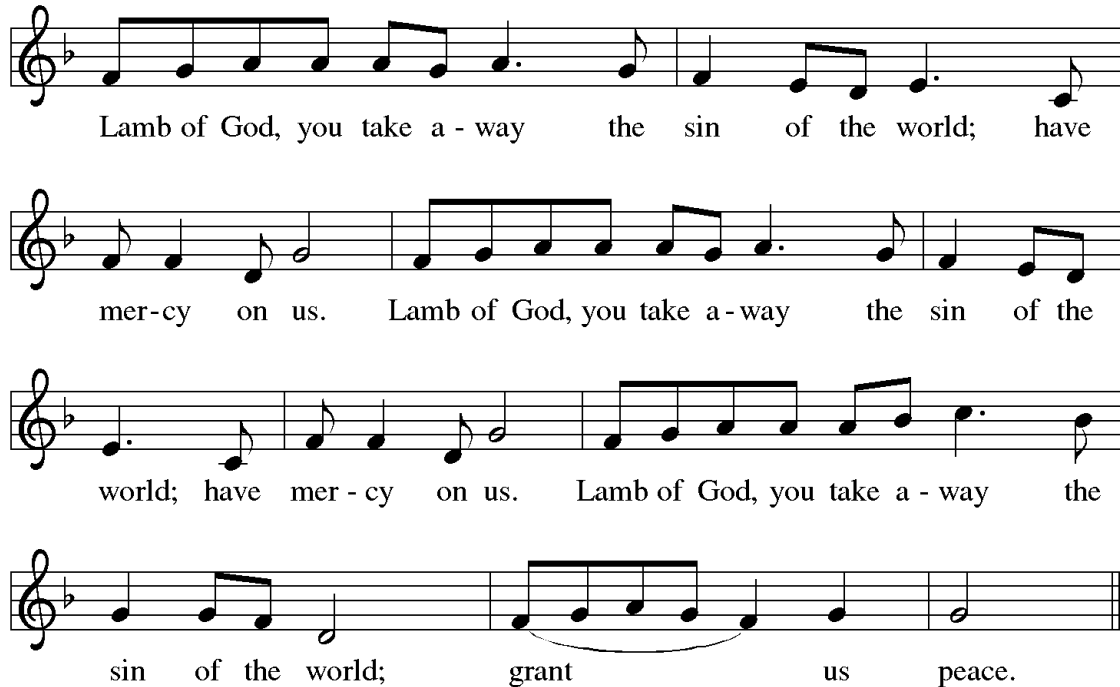
*the bread, let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.*

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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### MUSICAL MEDITATION: *O World, I Must leave You*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host,

**C you have shared your feast with us and made us new.**

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
 C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *I Call to You, Jesus Christ*

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**Prelude:** *Andante un poco Adagio from Sonata in F minor for Clarinet and Piano*

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Clarinet: Ashley Goins

**Gathering Hymn:** *The Glory of These Forty Days*

Text: Latin hymn (11<sup>th</sup> cent); tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947)

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, Jr. Klug, Geistliche Lieder (1543)

**Hymn of the Day:** *If God My Lord Be for Me*

Text: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Richard Massie (1800-1887), adapt.

Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody (16<sup>th</sup> century).

**Musical Offering:** *Lord, Sanctify Me Wholly*

Text & Music: Jean Pasquet (1896-1977)

**Musical Meditation:** *O World, I Must Leave You*

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Sending Hymn:** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Text: Harry E. Fosdick (1878-1969)

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes (1873-1932).

**Postlude:** *O Sacred Head Surrounded*

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

## Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

**Pastor:** The Rev. Veronika Czutor  
972-904-0245 | [pastor@centrallutheran.org](mailto:pastor@centrallutheran.org)

**Music Director:** Dr. Joseph Henry  
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**Administrative Assistant:** Rachel Brown  
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[www.CentralLutheran.org](http://www.CentralLutheran.org)

[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: Judy Koble Lector: Carmina Castro

**A Message About Lent:** The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we journey through this season together with the whole church. Lent is a time for deepening our connections with the communities that surround us. Reading the Scriptures invites you all to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

**Sunday School Today:** We will have all-ages Sunday school today after worship in the Parish Hall. The theme is “bold women of history”. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome!

**Questions During Lent:** We are tackling our goals head-on with design thinking. We have a question each week that bring us closer to understanding ourselves and achieving our goals. Be prepared to participate by answering questions with sticky notes on a board posted in the sanctuary (Sundays) or the Parish Hall (Wednesdays). We hope to see the board covered with ideas so bring your thinking caps.

**The questions for this week are: What do you value most in this church? How do those values shape our identity as a merged congregation?**

**Midweek Lenten Vespers:** 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. We are combining our services with Emanuel Lutheran Church and will be meeting at Central.

**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). **Registration is \$25.** 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.

**Lenten Collection:** During Lent we are collecting hygiene items for White Rock Center of Hope. If you are able, please bring full-size, unopened varieties of the following items:

- Body Wash & Bar soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Tampons & Sanitary Pads
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Laundry Detergent

**Candy Collection:** During our Spring Festival, on April 13, we will have egg hunts for different age groups. We have as many eggs as we need, but we are asking for donations of candy to fill the eggs. **Our last day for collection is Sunday, April 6.**

**Lilies for Easter:** You may honor friends and family by purchasing lilies, which will decorate the altar on Easter. The cost is \$15 each, and you may take the plant home after services on April 20. Fill out the form (see insert) and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. Make checks payable to Central Lutheran Church, or donate online using Givelify, Vanco, or PayPal. Be sure to write “Easter lilies” in the comment line. If you did not receive a form, ask the ushers for one.

**Church Council**

The council is our group of lay leaders who represent different ministry fields. They meet on the second Sunday\* of every month after worship in the Parish Hall. Their next meeting is Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. All church members can attend any council meeting. If you would like to get in touch with the council, contact the church’s administrative assistant, Rachel, and she will help you.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President- Jan Moody        | Worship- Mary Glenn                         |
| Vice President- Ted Steinke | Education/ Youth/ Activities- Carrie Enocks |
| Treasurer- Janis Farrow     | Evangelism/ Mission & Outreach- Jeff Lowry  |
| Administration- Mark Moody  |   |

\*Note: the meeting for May has been moved to May 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Open this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](http://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](mailto: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  
Norma Ruth Myrick  
Elizabeth Brownsted  
Elizabeth Cardenas  
Brenda Burden  
Susie  
Wayne Nelson  
Charlene Zimmermann

#### **Relationship**

Friends of Janis Farrow  
Sister of Julie Atkins  
Friend of Mary Glenn  
Mother of Alesia Pearson  
Friend of Janis Farrow  
Daughter of Irene Hallmon  
Friend of Jean Staffeld  
Friend of Laura Haynie  
Friend of Sarah Blaser  
Aunt of Jan Moody

#### **Church Members**

Lydia Landfair  
Don Smith  
Mario Montejo  
Nancy Nulisch  
Carol Paschetag  
Paul Chambers

Kris McDowell  
Yuvonne Muirhead  
Mary Swenson  
Judy Christiansen  
Suzanne Schwenn