



# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
April 6, 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 from Sonata no. 4*

## **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

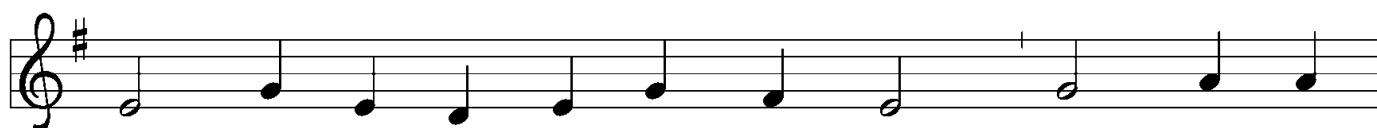
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**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 Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

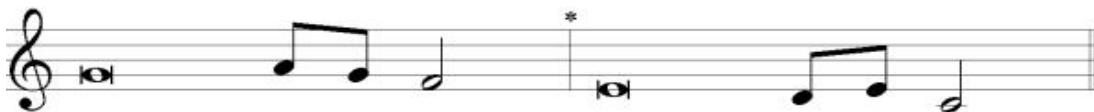
<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 126

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with | shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done  
great | things for them."**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

## SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

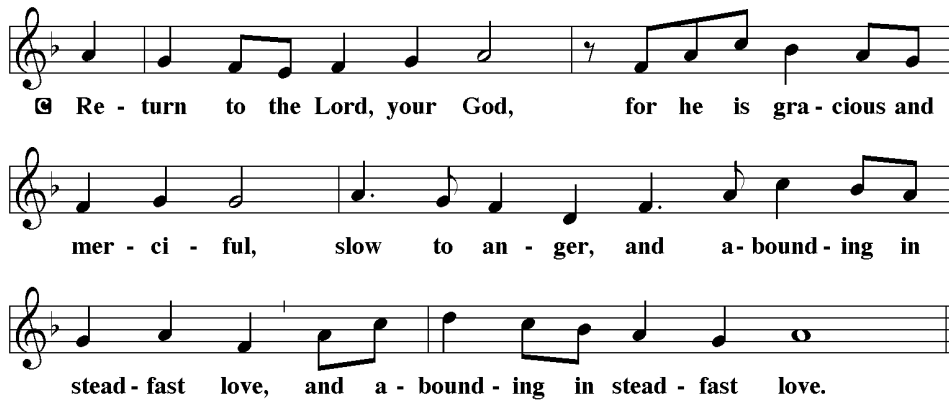
<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 fifteenth chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

## READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary

took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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 597


My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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, **Wayne** Nelson, **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: *Agnus Dei*

*Sung by the choir*

*Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

## 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.**

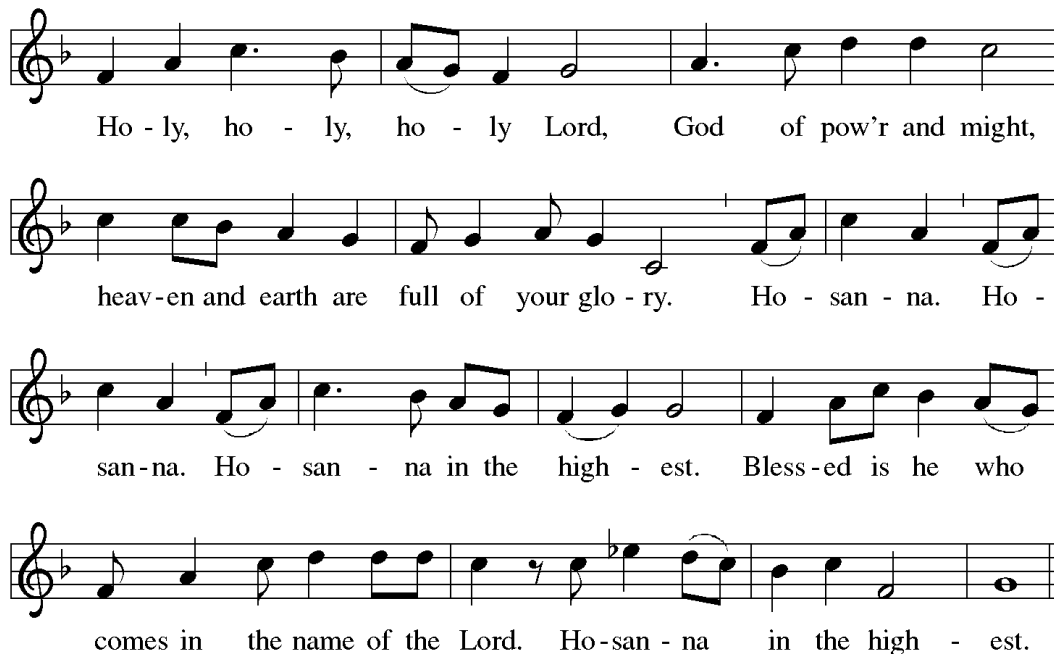
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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.**

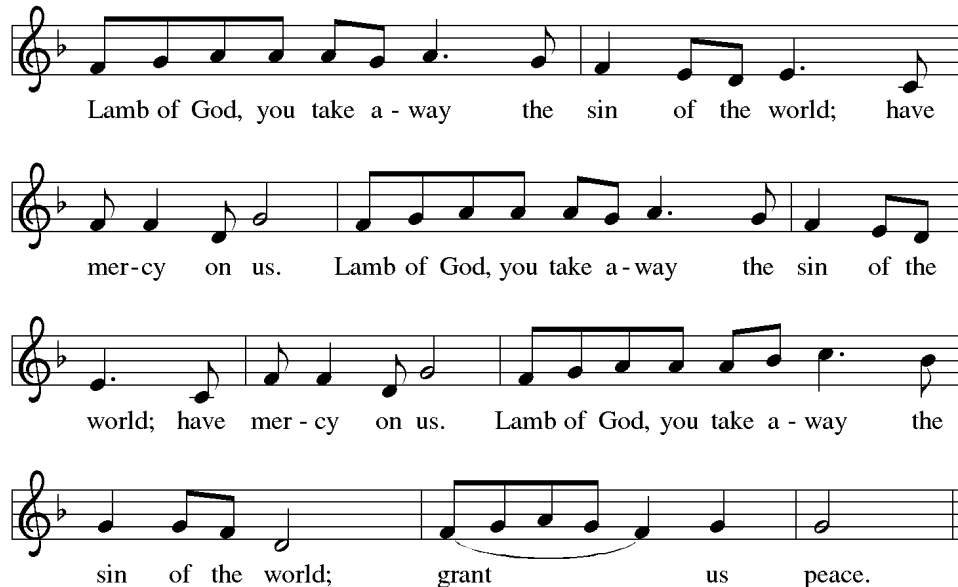
## COMMUNION

*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.*



## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### MUSICAL MEDITATION: *O Man, Lament Your Great Sin*

## 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.**

## Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my  
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep  
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for  
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the  
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has  
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and  
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -  
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -  
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and  
 slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to  
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most  
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!  
 bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!  
 show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!  
 pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!  
 you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE:** *Christ, Who Makes Us Blessed*

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Prelude: Andante from Sonata no. 4  
Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Collect for Purity  
Text & Music: Larry B. McCain (1946- )

Gathering Hymn: The Glory of These Forty Days  
Text: Latin hymn (11th cent); tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947)  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, Jr. Klug, Geistliche Lieder (1543)

Hymn of the Day: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
Text: Edward Mote (1797-1874), alt.  
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes (1823-1876)

Musical Offering: Agnus Dei  
Music: Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

Musical Meditation: O Man, Lament Your Great Sin  
Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sending Hymn: Oh, That I had a Thousand Voices  
Text: Johann Mentzer (1658-1734); tr. composite  
Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König (1691-1758)  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Postlude: Christ, Who Makes Us Blessed  
Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

## 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: Lisa Barse; Lector: Linnea Castillo; Assistant Minister: Jeff Lowry

**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.

**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.

**Spring Festival:** Come celebrate Spring with Central Lutheran! Our Spring Festival will be on **April 13 at noon** in front of the buildings. This all-ages event will include two egg hunts (divided by age), a bounce house, craft tables, and lots of games. Everyone from the neighborhood and community are welcome!

**Egg Stuffing: Today, after worship,** we will be filling our plastic eggs with candy and toys. The filled eggs will be used for the egg hunts during our Spring Festival.

**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:** How might we create leadership opportunities?

a. How might we equip, and empower people to lead?

b. What needs to happen for you to step into a leadership role?

**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

**Our last day of collection will be Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**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. **The next meeting is today, 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 Enocksen

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>.

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

- Palm Sunday Worship- April 13 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday Worship- *April 17* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Worship- *April 18* 6:00 pm

### **Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am**

Palm Sunday marks Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a journey of hope and challenge. We begin worship outside at the labyrinth, where we gather with palms in hand. Led by the choir in song, we will process together into the sanctuary, waving our palm leaves.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm**

On Maundy Thursday our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

### **Good Friday, April 18 at 6:00 pm**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

**Holy Saturday Cross & Sanctuary Decorating:** One of the best traditions at Central Lutheran is decorating the cross for everyone to enjoy on Easter Sunday morning. We'll need a few people to help us **starting at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. We'll move the cross to the Sanctuary and decorate the altar with lilies. All are welcome! Let us know if we can count on you!



**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