



Central Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023
8:30am & 11am Worship

Welcome to Central!

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Oregon Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a Reconciling in Christ community. We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people, regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service.

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another; nurturing faithful living; serving those in need; and sharing the Gospel.

A special word of welcome to our guests today: Thank you for joining us on this most holy day. If you are a first-time or occasional visitor, we invite you to fill out the visitor information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. **Parents of young children:** We welcome the sound of little ones in worship and so we encourage children and parents to worship together. However, if it is helpful to you, you are welcome to utilize the children's space located adjacent to the Narthex (entrance) to the Sanctuary. Additionally, there are children's bags and kid's bulletins available in the Narthex. **Large print bulletins as well as hearing assistance receivers are also available** from the ushers. Please note: if your personal hearing device has a T-Coil there are Hearing Loops in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.

Although masks are no longer mandated, we encourage you to make an individual choice as to whether to wear a mask, and further we ask that you be respectful of the personal space and comfort level of those around you.

INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

(4th Sunday after Epiphany, Sundays & Seasons)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guild You

Niels Gade

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your beloved children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #874 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! *(please stand)*

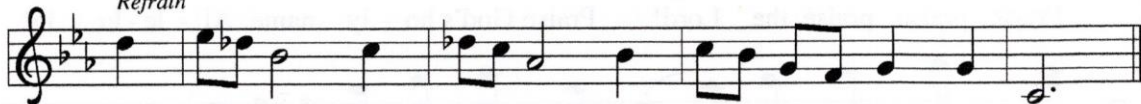


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing; your
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise, send
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth pour
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray, as



fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. Refrain
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. Refrain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Organ 3 *Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry ___ for our God. ___



Al-le-lu ___ ia, al-le-lu ___ ia. ___ 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. ___ Pow-er, rich - es wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon-or, bless-ing and glo-ry are his. ___ This is the feast of vic-to-ry ___ for our God. ___




Al-le-lu ___ ia, al-le-lu ___ ia. ___ 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a-tion. ___ Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

Final refrain



God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men ___ This is the feast of vic-to-ry ___ for our



God. ___ for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. ___



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia al - le - lu ___ ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." ⁶"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM (8:30) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

John Fergusson

Chorale

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*



CANTOR: Rejoice ¹ and be glad,* for your reward is ¹ great in heaven.
Assembly repeats Antiphon.

GOSPEL **Matthew 5:1-12**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A Jones

HYMN OF THE DAY #710 Let Streams of Living Justice *(please stand)*



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our Christian faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(8:30) OFFERING *Hallelujah* from the Sacred Harp hymnal Chorale

You may place your offering in the plates as you come forward for communion.

(8:30) OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(please stand)*

Praise the Lover of Creation, Praise the Spirit, Friend of Friends,
Praise the true Beloved, our Savior, Praise the God, who makes and mends,
Strong, surrendered, many-splendored, Three whose Oneness never ends.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive these gifts for the sake of him who offers himself to us through this simple meal of bread and wine. Strengthen us, through this meal, in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another. We ask this through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

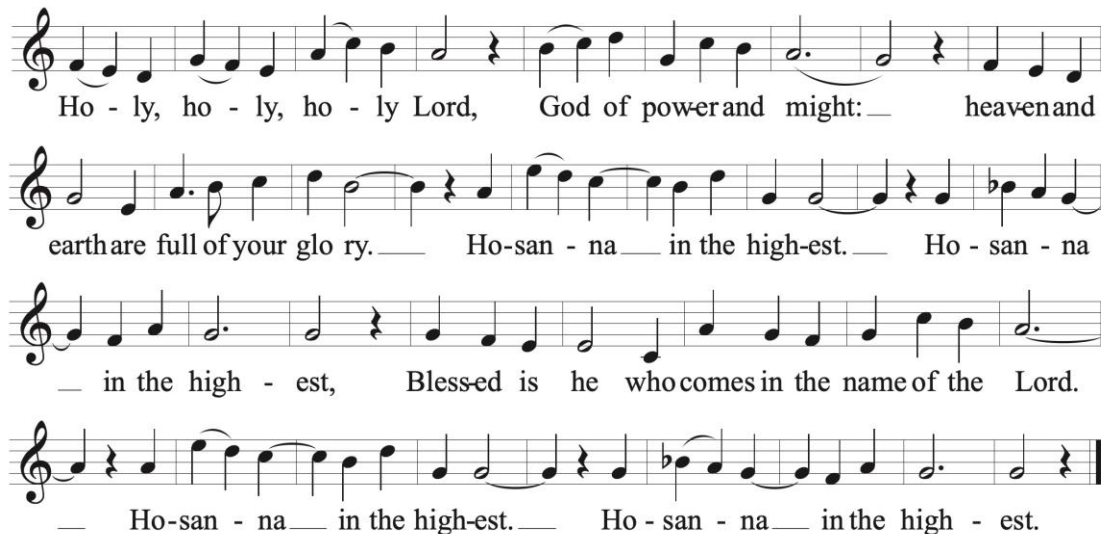
And al - so with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might:— heaven and
earth are full of your glo ry. — Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na
— in the high - est, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
— Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na — in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

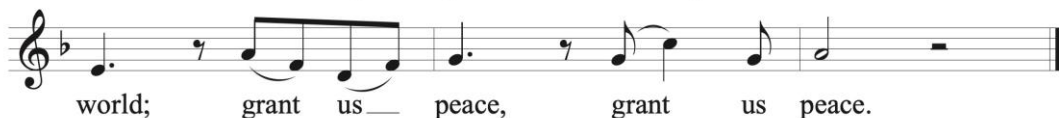
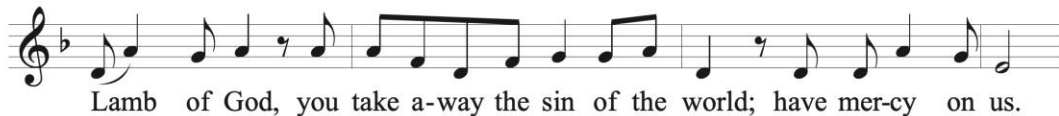
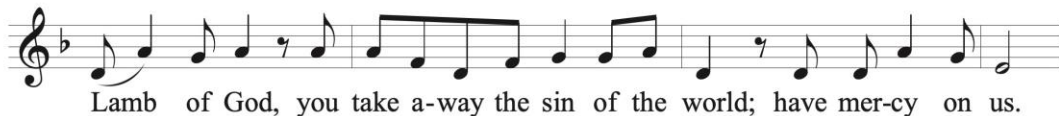
In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

LAMB OF GOD *(please be seated)*



DISTRIBUTION *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

Brahms

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

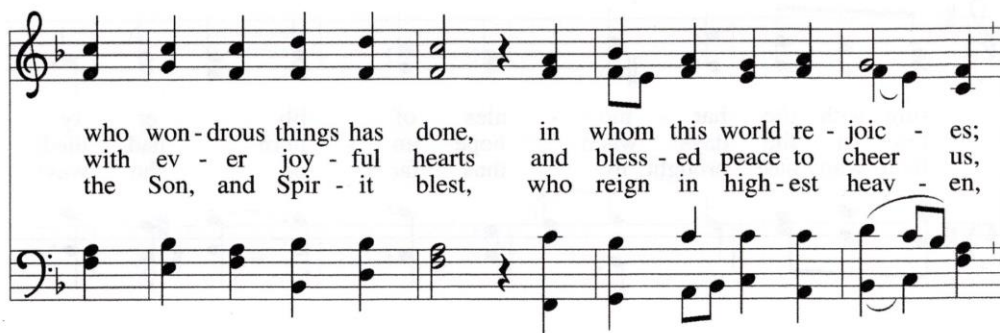
BENEDICTION *(please stand)*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN #840 Now Thank We All Our God



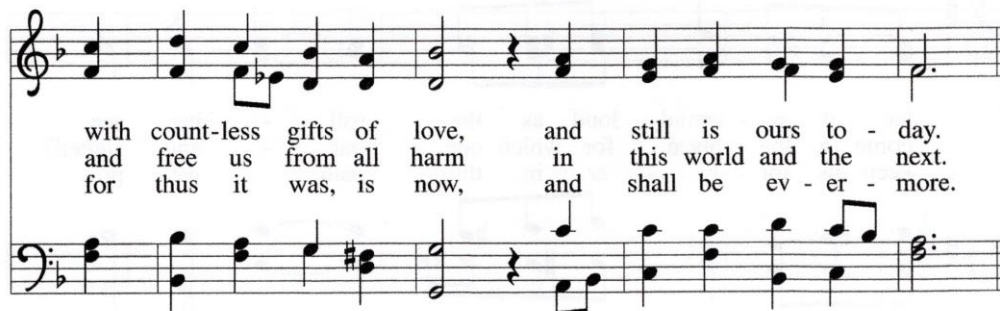
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joic - es;
with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
the one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Toccata in F, BuxWV 156* Diderik Buxtehude

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(11:00) Cantor: Bernie Bopp; **Greeter:** Ginger Bopp

Our Semi-annual congregational meeting is between services this morning. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee & treats as we celebrate what God has been up to in our midst during this past year and as we look forward to the ways God is calling us into our shared ministry in 2023!

Children are invited to join Stephanie Neubert in the Godly Play Room to hear and experience a biblical story through wonder, imagination, and artistic expression.

All are invited to join us this week at Together Tuesday for an indoor “Winter Picnic Supper!” The meal is from 5:15-6:00pm, followed by Music Together, Children’s Choir, and Adult Education from 6:00-6:45pm. Please let Ginger Bopp (gingerbopp@gmail.com) know if you’re able to bring a picnic-style dish to share (e.g. veggies, potato salad, cole slaw, fruit, deviled-eggs, chips, baked beans, baked or fried chicken).

A word of welcome and invitation to our guests: If you would like to find out more about the teachings of the Lutheran Christian faith and/or how you might engage more fully in our life together at Central, we invite you to contact Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben.

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our shared mission and ministry.

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