

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023  
8:30am Worship



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene Oregon  
541-345-0395  
[www.welcometocentral.org](http://www.welcometocentral.org)

## Welcome to Central!

**Central Lutheran Church**, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, 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, fellowship, and ministry.

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

**A special word of welcome to our guests today:** Thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a first-time or occasional visitor and would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you'd like to hear from us, we invite you to fill out the visitor information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Also, if you wish to find out more about Central, we invite you to visit our website *welcometocentral.org*.

**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.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*please stand as you are able*)

Almighty God, to 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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# ENTRANCE HYMN #838 Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

# 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

ELW 151

1. 3 Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy.  
 2. Christ have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy.

Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy.  
 Christ have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Organ Introduction

1. Shout for joy loud and long, God be praised
2. By God's word all was made, heav'n and earth,
3. Yet our pride makes us fall; so Christ came
4. Now has Christ tru - ly ris'n, and his Spir -

with a song! To the Lord we be - long: chil-dren of our ma - ker,  
 light and shade, na-ture's won - ders dis-played, we to rule cre - a - tion  
 for us all not the righ - teous to call by his cross and pas - sion,  
 it is giv'n to all those un - der heav'n who now walk be-side him,

God the great life giv - er. Shout for joy, joy, joy, Shout for joy,  
 from its first foun - da - tion.  
 bring - ing us sal - va - tion.  
 though they once de - nied him.

joy, joy, God is love, God is light, God is ev - er - last - ing!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## **FIRST READING Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, "You are

concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 145:1-8



- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you and praise your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works <sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power.**
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,  
and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of <sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully <sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>**The Lord is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.**
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the <sup>1</sup> Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the begin- ning, is now, and will be fore- <sup>1</sup> ver. Amen.

**ANTHEM.**

*Arise My Soul, Arise* Dale Wood

Chorale

## SECOND READING **Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*

Handbells

Al - le - lu - ia, \_\_\_\_\_

al - le - lu - ia, \_\_\_\_\_

al - le - lu - ia, \_\_\_\_\_

al - le - lu - ia, \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cantors** Open our | hearts, O Lord,\* to give heed to what is said | by your Son.  
**Repeat Antiphon**



## **GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16**

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

## HYMN OF THE DAY #724 All Who Love and Serve *(please stand)*



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who  
 2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your  
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed  
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the  
 5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -  
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of  
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that  
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,  
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.  
 Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."  
 spurns him, of - f'ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.  
 glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our Christian faith using the words of the 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. *(please be seated)***

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **PEACE**

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

### **OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

### **OFFERING**

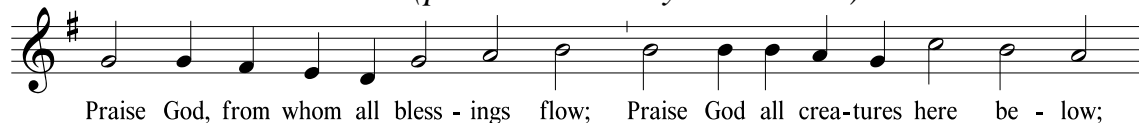
*You are invited to place your offering in the plate  
as you come forward for communion.*

### **OFFERTORY**

*Press Forward Now*

Chorale

### **OFFERING RESPONSE** *(please stand as you are able)*



### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times, and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy God, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples and upon us. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. 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, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:  
heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!  
Bless - ed be the ris - en Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf - fered death our\_\_ lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us\_\_ free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter - nal\_\_ peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION *(please stand as you are able)*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re-joic-ing, glad-ly let us go. Christ our Lord has  
2 Un-to God the Fa-ther, joy-ful songs we sing; un-to God the  
con-quer-ed; van-quished is the foe. Christ with-out, our safe-ty;  
Sav-ior, thank-ful hearts we bring; un-to God the Spir-it,  
Christ with-in our joy; who, if we be faith-ful, can our hope de-stroy?  
bow we and a-dore. on our way re-joic-ing, now and ev-er-more.  
On our way re-joic-ing; as we for-ward move,  
hear-ken to our prais-es, O blest God of love!

Text: John Monsell

St. Gertrude  
Music: Arthur Sullivan

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We invite you to remain seated through the voluntary; however, if you choose to depart, we kindly ask you to do so in silence.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY.

*Litanies*

Jehan Alain

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**We give thanks to God for Central's Stephen Ministry!** Following worship you are invited to join us for a breakfast in the Parish Hall to hear more about Stephen Ministry. We also want to thank our Stephen Ministers for their leadership in worship today!

Greeters: (8:30) Dawn Susuico & Gary Wolfe  
(11:00) Karen Lacey & Jolynn Fabiano

Lectors: (8:30) Gretchen Simas & Greg Vik  
(11:00) Jean Clancey & Merrily Sutton

Communion Servers: (8:30) Karen Lacey, Jolynn Fabiano & Sally Diehm  
(11:00) Eric Elwood & Sally Diehm

**Interested in membership at Central?** A new member class will begin next Sunday (9:45-10:45am) with reception of new members on Reformation Sunday, October 29. Talk to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben to find out more!

**All are welcome to join us for  
Together Tuesdays**

- 5:15-6:00pm Community meal in the Parish Hall
- 6:00-6:45pm Music Together in the Gathering Room (birth-5, accompanied by a parent/caregiver)
- 6:00-6:45pm Children's Choir in the Nicki Hanson Choir Room (Kindergartner-5th graders)
- 6:00-7:00pm Adult Education in the Library

**Organ Concert this afternoon at 4pm** featuring Amanda Mole.

**Would you like to contribute to our quilt mission,** but can't attend in person? We are now providing kits for you to take home, sew and return. There is a basket in the narthex with kits and instructions. Each kit makes one top which we will complete during our Thursday morning quilting time on the 1st and 3rd of each month. Tops are 35 squares sewed with quarter inch seams in a simple 5x7 layout. These tops are our greatest need presently so if you have time to sew even one or two, we will appreciate it.

## **Central Lutheran Staff**

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