

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023
8:30am Worship



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene Oregon
541-345-0395
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 worshiping 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 *Reflection on the Hymntune “Down Ampney”* Alice Jordan

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 you, and for his sake God forgives you 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 #834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

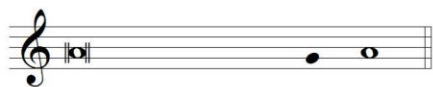
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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.



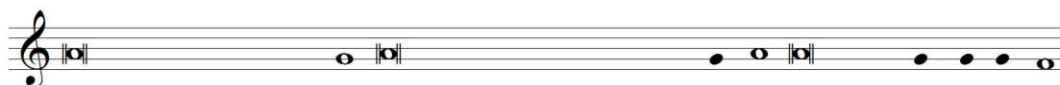
Lord have mer-cy.



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 uni - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord.



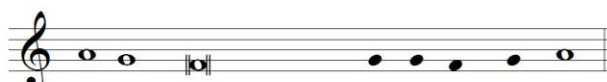
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holyhouse, 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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and



rich - es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing, and



glo-ry are his. This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our



God. Al-le - lu - - - ia. Sing with all the



peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre -



a - tion. Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord, **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING **Isaiah 45:1-7**

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-9



¹Sing to the Lord¹ a new song; sing to the Lord,¹ all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name¹ of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a-¹mong the nations and God's wonders a-¹mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly¹ to be praised, more to be feared¹ than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols; but you, O Lord, have¹ made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence; power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families¹ of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord hon-¹or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the¹ holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beau-¹ty of holiness; tremble before the Lord,¹ all the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the¹ Holy Spirit. As it was in the begin-ning, is now, and will be fore-¹ver. Amen.

ANTHEM *All My Hope on God Is Founded* Rodgers Chorale
Composed for the Chorale in memory of D'reen Stewart-Cook – first time presented.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,

constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*please stand*)

Handbells

Al - le - lu - ia, _____

al - le - lu - ia, _____

al - le - lu - ia, _____

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Cantors: Shine like stars ¹ in the world,* holding fast to the ¹ word of life.
Repeat Antiphon

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *A Trap, a Test, and a Twist*

Pastor Laurie A Jones

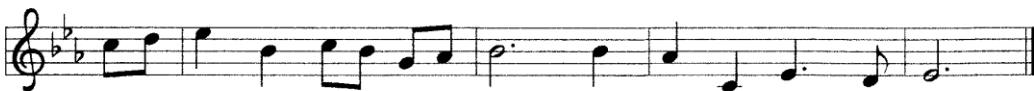
HYMN OF THE DAY #580 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

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.*

OFFERING HYMN Be Still, My Soul *(Stanza 3 a cappella - no organ)*

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa - tient -
 2 Be still, my Soul: thy God doth un - der - take To guide the
 3 Be still, my Soul: the hour is has-tening on When we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to
 fu - ture as he has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi -
 be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - sp - point - ment,

or - der and pro - vide; In ev - ery change he
 dence let noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious
 grief, and fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's

faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my Soul: thy best, thy heaven-ly
 shall be bright at last; Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my Soul: when change and tears are

friend Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know His voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 past, All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

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.
Lift up your hearts.
And al - so with you.
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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



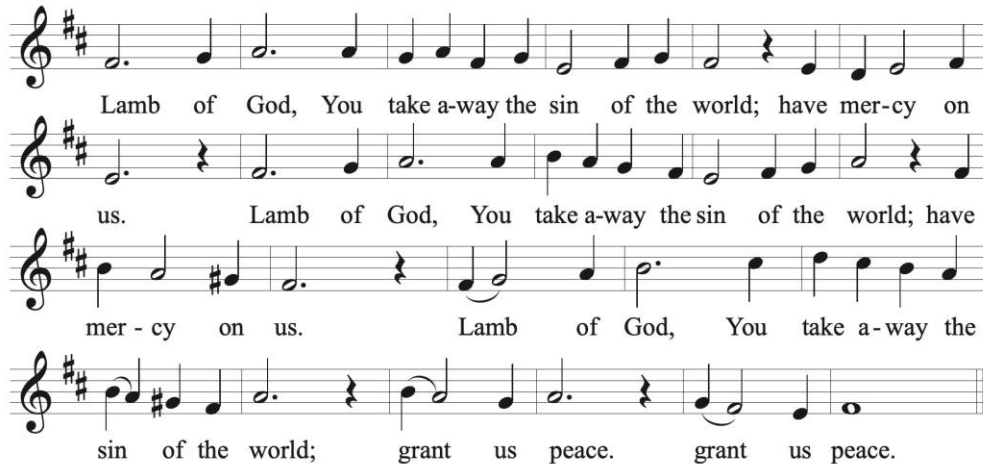
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.** (*please be seated*)

LAMB OF GOD



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.

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

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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 #757 All My Hope on God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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 *Praeludium in C Minor, BWV 546.1*

J. S. Bach

*The liturgy is adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, reprinted by permission through One License #A-706755 with special permission to live stream granted by Augsburg Fortress and One License.
Bulletin Image: Roman Denarius from 12 BC minted by L. Caninius Gallus. Image source: Open Access from Wikimediacommons.org*

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the family of Don and Thelma Montgomery in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Chi Rho Lead Up: Our Chi Rho Lectures are coming up Nov. 10-12 on the theme *Martin Luther King's Letter to American Christians: Rediscovering a Neglected Classic*. To get us ready for these exciting lectures, Pastor Ben will be leading an introduction to Dr. King's letter of Paul to the American Christians this Thursday, October 26 at 7pm via Zoom (link available on the weekly email and on Central's website).

Central Lutheran Facilities and Garden Workday: Fall Cleaning! Please come help us with care of our facility both inside the building and outside on the church grounds this Saturday October 28 from 10am-noon. Bring your garden tools! Your help is deeply appreciated.

Midweek Coffee Hour this Wednesday, Oct. 25th from 1-2pm in the Terrace Room. Join us for coffee, treats, and fellowship.

New members will be received next Sunday, Reformation Sunday, October 29th. Talk to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben if you'd like more information about membership at Central.

All Saints Day Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 5pm in the Memorial Courtyard. Please join us for a brief service remembering the saints who have gone before us.

All Saints Sunday Nov. 5 with Mozart's Requiem. Plan to be here!

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