

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 20, 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

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Johannes Brahms

### 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 #641 All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## 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



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GLORIA



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift\_ high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to\_ save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Gracious God, through your prophets you awaken us to your desire for justice and the common good. May justice roll like a river, and righteousness and integrity like an ever-flowing stream. Drive us out into costly service for the sake of others. Give us strong hearts and voices to satisfy your desire for justice for the most vulnerable and oppressed. Inspire us to engage in the good trouble of the gospel, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.** *(please be seated)*

## **ANTHEM**

Creating God

Eugene Hancock

## **FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*(The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.)*

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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



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



Al - le-lu-ia! Lord and Sav-ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 15:21-28

The Gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Ben Nickodemus



# HYMN OF THE DAY #886 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*(please stand as you are able)*



- 1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
- 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

## 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 bring your offering forward when you come for communion*

**OFFERTORY**    There's a Wideness in God's Mercy            Mark Schweizer

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



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;



Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

## SANCTUS



*Praise My Soul*  
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

**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)*

### 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)*

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

#### PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, you have created us for good as the body of Christ. Grant us, through this meal of your body and blood, courage to live and speak together as a reflection of your love. Fill us with hope for the future. Guide us to go in peace and to love and serve you in our community. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

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.

## HYMN OF THE DAY #588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **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** Ballo del Granduca Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

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Bulletin Cover: Hans Vischer, *Christ and the woman of Canaan* (Mat 15, 28 “Great is thy faith”) Nuremberg, 1543. Photo, public domain from wikimediacommons.org

**Cantors:** Emma Ditmore and Shayne Lowery

**The special prayer of the day and the post-communion prayer** are taken from the ELCA study on Civic Life and Faith which Central, United, and Emmaus are discussing on Tuesday nights via Zoom Aug 1-Sept. 5. More information below.

**Blood Drive:** Central Lutheran is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 22nd, from 10am-3pm in the Parish Hall. To sign up please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: `centrallutheraneugene` or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

## **ELCA Study for Civic Life and Faith Continues!**

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a study curriculum for use throughout our church. The task force is inviting **all of us** to join a conversation about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics.

Pastor Ben and Deacon Clare will be hosting this weekly study on Zoom on **Tuesdays at 7pm in August (through the first week of September)**.

### **Tuesday, August 22**

Session 4: “What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?”

### **Tuesday, August 29**

Session 5: “What's Faith-based Living Got to Do With Civic Life?”

### **Tuesday, September 5**

Session 6: “How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?”

A response form after each session lets participants communicate with the task force itself on the material covered. Join us for any or all of these sessions on Zoom.

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