

Central Lutheran Church
Feast of St. Francis &
Blessing of the Animals
October 1, 2023
8:30am & 11am



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.

In commemoration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, we give thanks to God, the Creator of all good things in heaven and on earth, and under the earth. Using a variety of resources from Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and Lutheran liturgies, today we give glory to God for the bounty and beauty of creation and all God's creatures, great and small.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE (8:30) *Pastorale, op. 156 - Mel Bonis*

(11:00) *Children of the Heavenly Father*

Arya Saks

WELCOME

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF CREATION

Bless the Lord, all you creatures!

And forget not all of God's benefits.

For all your creatures that breathe and move and have life,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That we may love and honor the works of your hand,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That all living things may be treasured with care,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.


That all life may flourish,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.


All are invited to join in today's procession. Following the hymn, those who desire to have an animal blessed, please remain up front.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN All Things Bright and Beautiful *(please stand)*


Refrain




All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,



All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all. *Fine*



1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens Each lit - tle bird that sings,
2. The pur - ple head - ed mountain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell



Repeat Refrain

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

Music: English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

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.**

BLESSING THE ANIMALS

During the blessing the congregation is invited to sing:



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

At the conclusion of the blessing, the following prayer is said.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Creator God, you have done all things wisely. In your goodness you have made us in your image and have entrusted us with the care of every living thing. Help us to be good stewards of your creation. Reach out with your hand, O God, and grant that these animals may know your blessing and our loving care. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Micah 6:6-8

God responds to the people's question about what God expects of them. It is not sacrifice, but a way of life that values justice, loving-kindness, and humility.

“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? Will 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?” He 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.**

PSALM 8

¹O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O¹ Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in¹ 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 (8:30) *A Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter Chorale

ANTHEM (11:00) *Be a Shepherd for My Flock* Jane M Pope
Children's Choir

SECOND LESSON Galatians 6:14-18

Paul suggests that since the coming of Christ there is a new unity of all people. The old "world" has been crucified and the new "creation" has been enacted so that all people and all things have become one in Christ Jesus as expressed in their very own bodies and selves.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule--peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: The earth, the creatures, and all living things are given for you, says the Lord. Love them, protect them and use them wisely. **Repeat antiphon**

GOSPEL **Matthew 11:25-30**

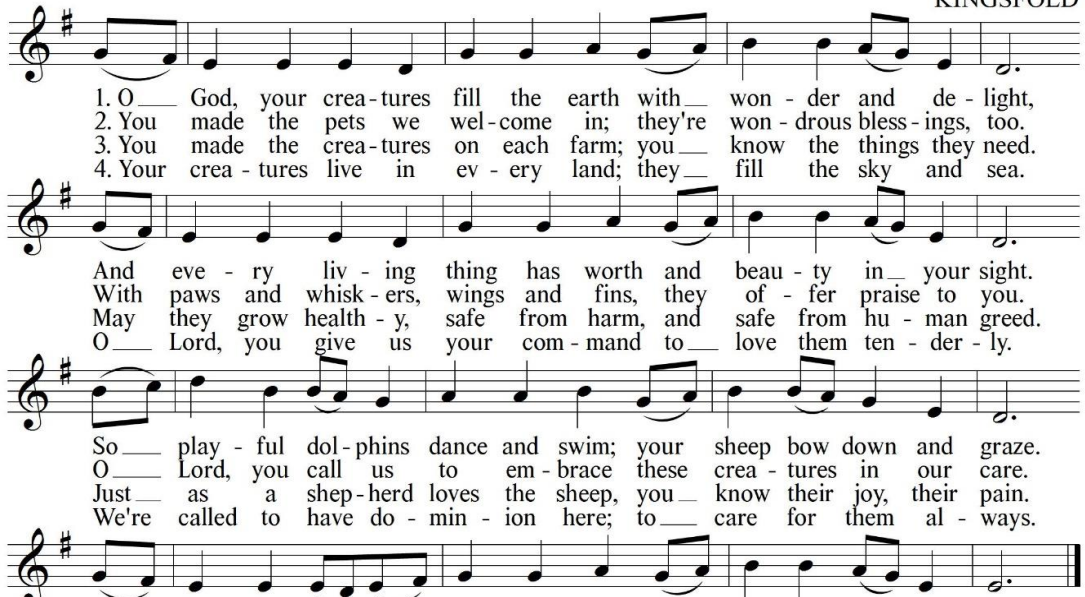
The Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN O God Your Creatures Fill the Earth *(please stand)*

KINGSFOLD



1. O God, your crea-tures fill the earth with won - der and de - light,
2. You made the pets we wel - come in; they're won - drous bless - ings, too.
3. You made the crea-tures on each farm; you know the things they need.
4. Your crea - tures live in ev - ery land; they fill the sky and sea.

And eve - ry liv - ing thing has worth and beau - ty in your sight.
With paws and whisk - ers, wings and fins, they of - fer praise to you.
May they grow health - y, safe from harm, and safe from hu - man greed.
O Lord, you give us your com - mand to love them ten - der - ly.

So play - ful dol - phins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
O Lord, you call us to em - brace these crea - tures in our care.
Just as a shep - herd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
We're called to have do - min - ion here; to care for them al - ways.

Your song birds share a morn - ing hymn to of - fer you their praise.
May we show kind - ness, love and grace to all pets eve - ry - where.
Lord, bless the an - i - mals we keep; May all farms be hu - mane.
By lov - ing crea-tures you hold dear, we of - fer you our praise.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

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

ANTHEM (11:00) *That's Central* by Children's Choir & Steve Rodgers

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY (8:30)

Prelude on Converse

Barr

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



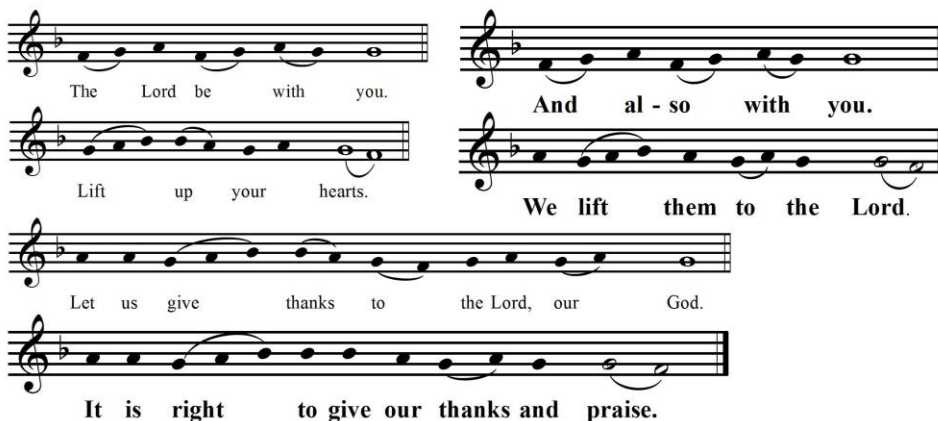
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;
Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



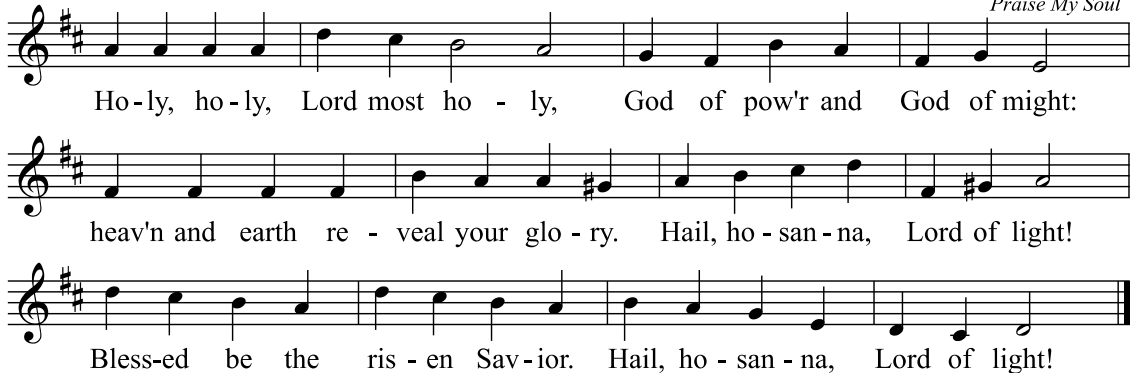
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, 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 for the remembrance of me."

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. † Christ is risen. † Christ will come again.

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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. **Amen.**

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)*

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & 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

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Creator, you feed your people with the bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage that we may come to that place where your people hunger and thirst no more and your creation is restored to its full glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

BENEDICTION

God, Creator of all things, breathing all life into being; Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world, gathering us into one body; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the Church; Almighty God, three in one, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High Stanzas 1-4 & 6



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

6 O Sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for the earth and all its creatures. **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 *Toccata in D Major*

Dubois

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.

11:00am Cantor: Steve Rodgers

Junior Cantors:

Sam Rodgers, Charlotte Miller, CJ Strietelmeier, Arya Saks, Signe Smith

Children's Choir:

Piper Neubert, Eliot Hardwick, Ella Franzwa, Greyson Neckels, Henry Koscho, Lousia Barrett, Evan Barrett, Lukas Henriksen, Paul Rodgers

Beginning today and continuing through October on Sunday mornings between services we will have a new class called “Here We Stand: Who We Are as Central Lutheran.” This class will review who Central is, what our mission and vision is, and how we engage the world around us. This class will enliven our purpose as a community as well as enable us to get to know one another. Please join us!

Individual prayer is available in the chapel this morning immediately following the 8:30 service. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers for one-on-one prayer in a private setting.

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.



**CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st
AT CAMP LUTHERWOOD**

“The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead.” (ELW #729)

Join members of Central, United, and Emmaus for **The Church of Christ in Every Age**, an educational and empowering retreat for all ages, engaging the question we’re all asking: what it means to be church in this time and place. Come, reflect, listen, and engage on where the church has been, where the church is, and where the church is going. This intergenerational programming is for confirmation-age up through our elders. But bring the kids, too! CUE Youth & Family Coordinator Crystal Miller will bring the games and fun for all our little ones. Use the QR code to register.

Central’s Dinner Groups

Dinner Groups consist of 6-8 people--couples, or singles. They typically meet four times or more per year, depending on what the group chooses. If you don’t have a house big enough to host a group this size, you can choose a restaurant with a quiet area and host there. Everyone will pay for their own meal. We also have a Christmas party in early December with all groups attending when possible. Meals are potluck, the host/hostess provides the main course and the members are asked to provide appetizers, salad and/or vegetable, potatoes, bread and dessert to compliment the meal. Drinks provided by host/hostess could include: coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade, and water, white & red wine, (most members will bring their preference). Dinner Group is a fun way to meet and get to know other church members. If you are interested in joining, email rosiehatleberg@gmail.com or call 541-726-5694, call or text cell 541-517-8143 or call Kristi at Central, 541-345-0395. Current dinner group members: we need dinner group leaders!

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