

Season of Creation:
July 30, 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 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 *Prelude (from Prelude, Fugue & Variation)* Franck

WELCOME

OPENING LITANY

Come, worship the God of all creation.

We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all creation.

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

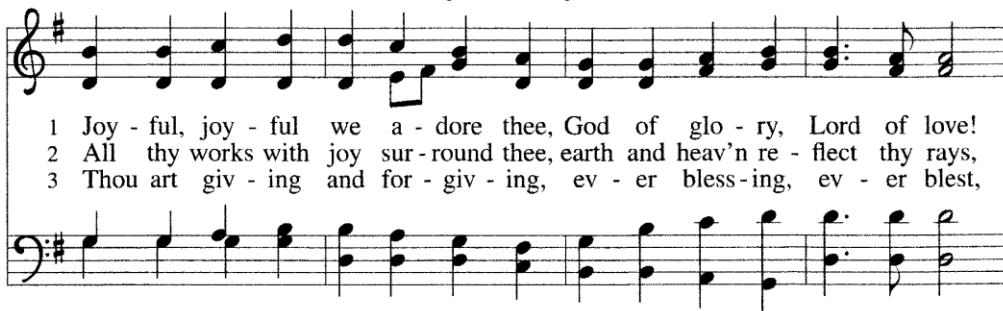
We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in the Body of Christ with all creation.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

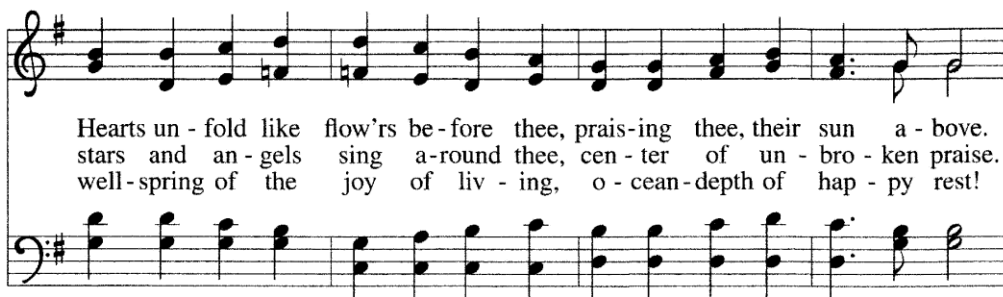
In water we are joined to Christ and the entirety of the Trinity in the gift of baptism.

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. 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 into the new creation with your forgiveness, grace, and love. **Amen.**

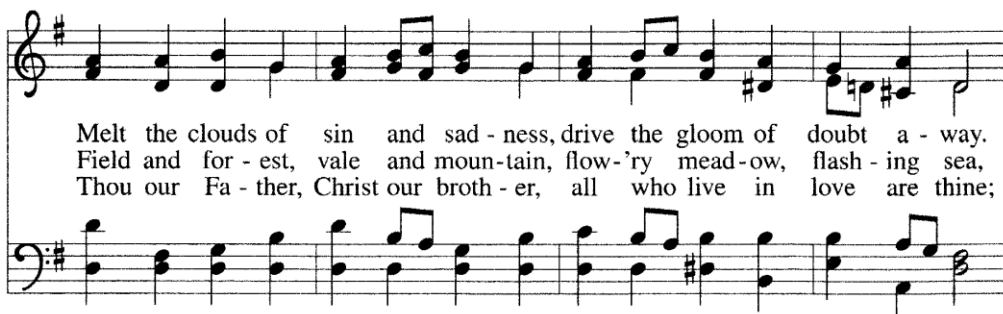
ENTRANCE HYMN #836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



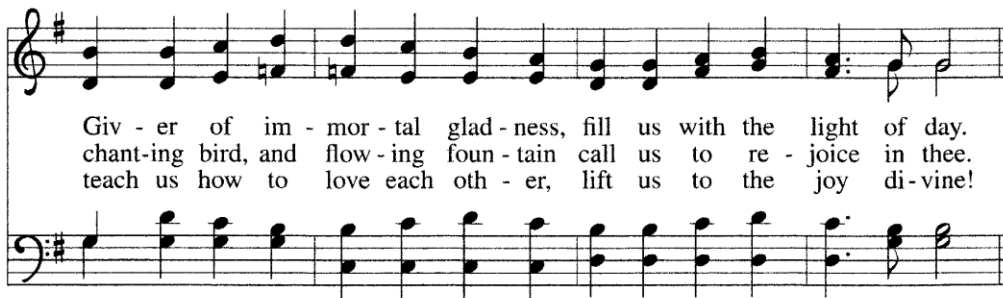
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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

Austria



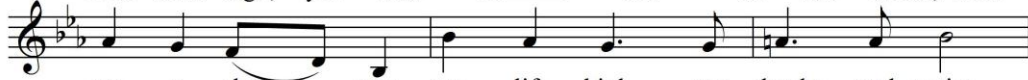
1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to
2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and
3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to



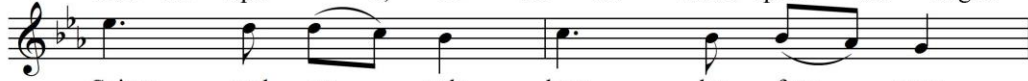
all the__ earth. Might - y God of all cre - a - tion,
Lord of__ love. Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior,
you we__ call; Ho - ly One in faith we name you,



Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing__ worth: we ex - alt__ you,
you have come from heav'n a - bove; on the cross you
God most high, yet near to__ all: Je - sus Christ, with



we a - dore__ you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
died to save__ us; now you reign at God's right hand.
God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore__ you;
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give__ us;
For the peace that we in - her - it,



here on__ earth our__ songs we__ raise.
in your__ prom - ise__ firm we__ stand.
glo - ry__ be__ to__ God on__ high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **God, through your promise of a new creation here on earth, you give us hope and joy. Draw us more deeply into relationship with you, that we may share your deep love for wilderness, water, land, plants, creatures, and all you have made. Prepare us, God, for what lies ahead as we seek to participate in your creative work of renewal and restoration of all things. In Jesus’s name, we pray. Amen. (please be seated)**

ANTHEM

Lord, God of Abraham from **Elijah**
Dylan Buntun, Bass

Mendelssohn

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-31

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” ²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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

PSALM 96 (*move after* ¹)



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

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the Lord.**

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

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ Lord is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- ¹ ples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is
therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing, O Lord,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the ¹ Holy Spirit.

As it was in the begin- ning, is now, and will be fore- ¹ ver. Amen.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:15—6:2

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



CANTORS: Many will come from ¹ east and west* and will eat in the king-¹ dom of heaven. **Repeat Antiphon**

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-4


In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Jesus said, I tell you if the people were silent, **the very stones would shout out.**


SERMON

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

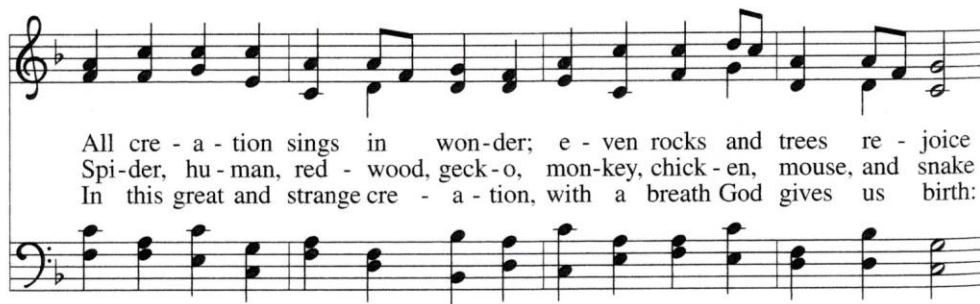
HYMN OF THE DAY #1064 Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom *(please stand)*



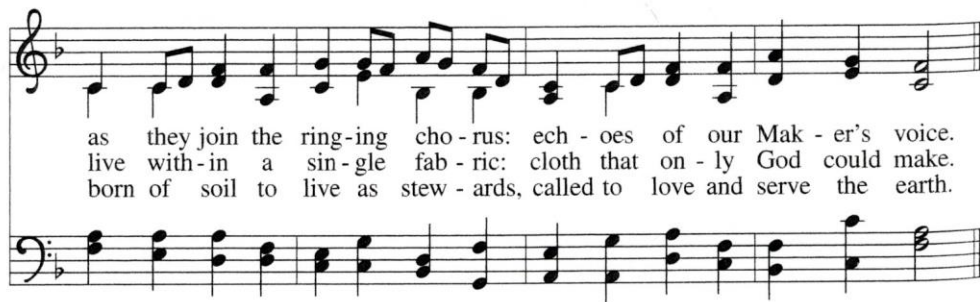
1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand as you are able)*

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.
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

SANTCUS



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

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.**

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*)

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.**

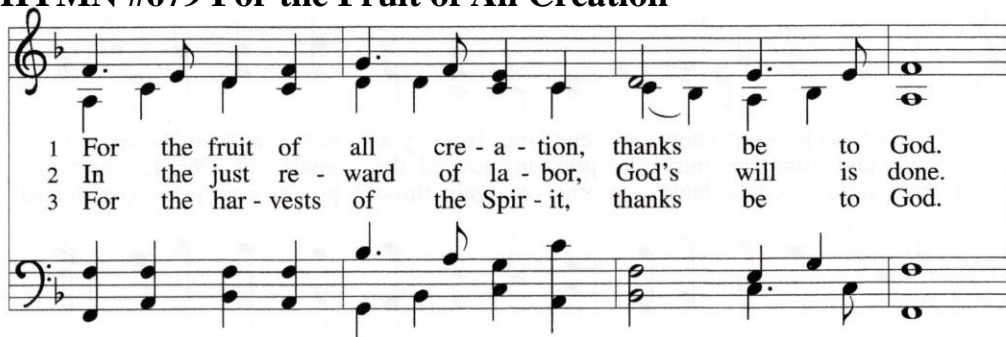
PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

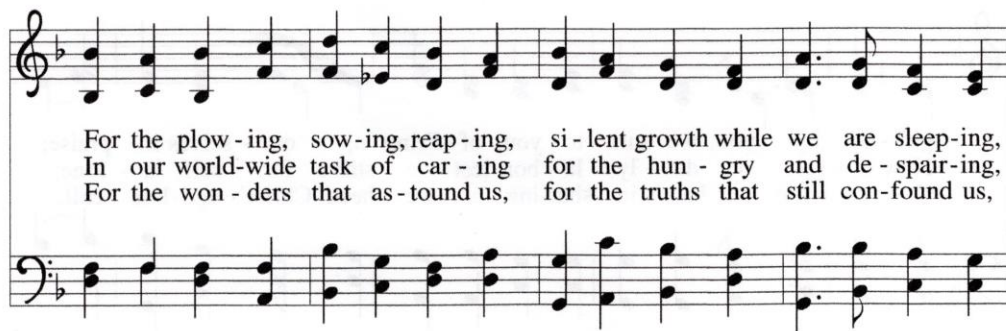
HYMN #679 For the Fruit of All Creation



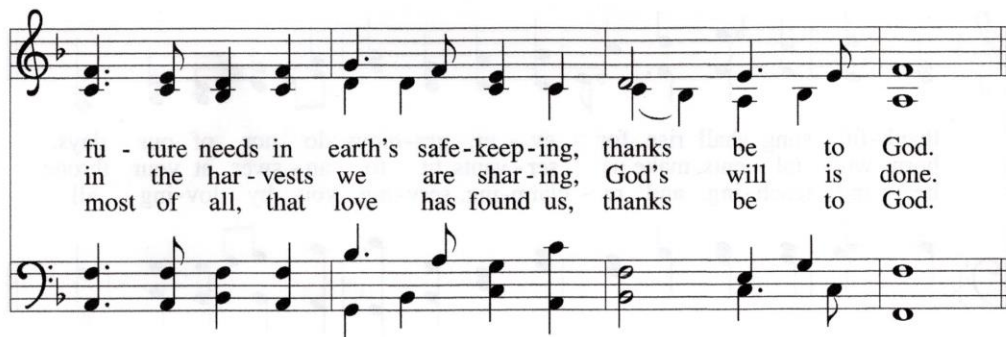
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 *Præludium in B Minor, BWV 544* J. S. Bach

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Cantors: Naomi Castro & Dylan Buntten

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Wildish family in celebration of the 90th birthday of Yvonne Wildish.

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 and enter sponsor code: centrallutheraneugene or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Season of Creation: This Sunday marks the end of Central's Season of Creation shared with Emmaus and United Lutheran. We thank all who participated, especially Pastor Eric from United and Pastor Andrew from Emmaus who both preached at Central during this special series.

Hearth and Table: Our Hearth and Table program is thriving! Each week during the school year up to 100 students receive meals and fellowship. After 5 years of faithful service helping develop our Hearth and Table program, Chef Ryan has gotten a full-time job at Lane Community College. Congratulations, Chef Ryan! We will miss all he has brought to this ministry over the years and wish him well. Campus Ministry will be seeking out applicants for a new Chef for the Fall. Please see Deacon Clare for more information.

Upcoming in August: **ELCA Study for Civic Life and Faith**

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 1 - Session 1: “How Is God’s Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy?”

Tuesday, August 8 - Session 2: “How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?”

Tuesday, August 15 - Session 3: “What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life?”

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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