

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
8:30am Worship



Central Lutheran
Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, OR 97403
www.welcometocentral.org



CENTRAL LUTHERAN MISSION



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

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, gender expression, economic circumstance, and we firmly commit to racial equity. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN STAFF

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GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

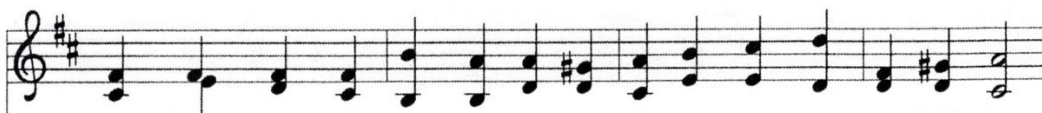
Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is the forgiveness of sins and the promise of new life. Receive freely this healing gift of mercy and grace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven *(please stand)*



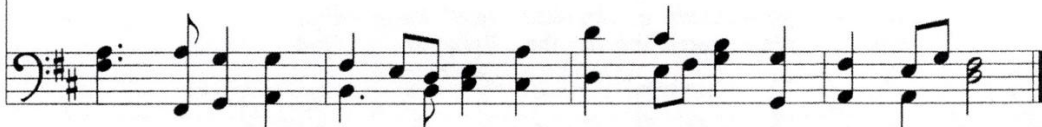
- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!



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. cy. Lord have mer - cy. cy.
 2. Christ have mer - cy. cy. Christ have mer - cy. 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,
 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
 God the great life giv - er. Shout for joy, joy, joy, Shout for joy, joy, joy,
 from its first foun - da - tion.
 God is love, God is light, God is ev - er - last - ing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (you may be seated)**

WORD

FIRST LESSON **Genesis 50:15-21**

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM 103: 1-13

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,

and forget not | all God's benefits—

who forgives | all your sins

and heals all | your diseases;

who redeems your life | from the grave

and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;

who satisfies your desires | with good things

so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.



O Lord, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
 You made known your | ways to Moses
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
 you will not al- | ways accuse us,
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
 As a father has compassion | for his children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy | Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore- | ver. Amen.

ANTHEM

Sing God a Simple Song

Cantors

SECOND LESSON Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able

to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the Gospel Acclamation our children are invited to go to the Chapel for a special message. They will return during the Sharing of the Peace.

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 18:21-35

The gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came **upon** one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #605 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive *(please stand)*



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church throughout the ages, let us profess 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

*When the leader says, "God, in your mercy,"
you are invited to respond, "Hear our prayer."*

PEACE

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANTHEM

Deep River – arr. Hayes

David Gustafson, Tenor

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(please stand as you're able)*



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, that we should at all times and all places give our thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

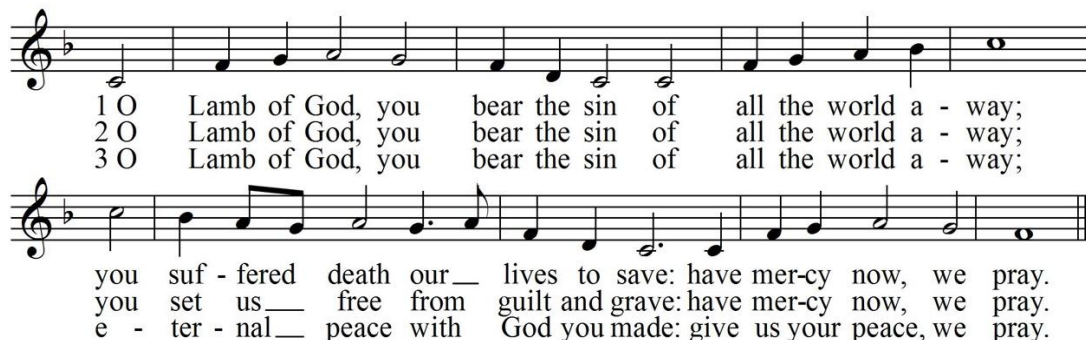
LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

BENEDICTION *(please stand)*

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #867 In Thee Is Gladness *(see next page)*

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **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 *In dir ist Freude* (In Thee is Gladness) Bach

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Today's Cantors: Siri Vik, David Gustafson, & Sam Rodgers

For additional information on weekly and upcoming events visit our website welcometocentral.org.

Let us know if you'd like to be added to our email listserv by emailing churchoffice@welcometocentral.org.

HYMN #867 In Thee Is Gladness



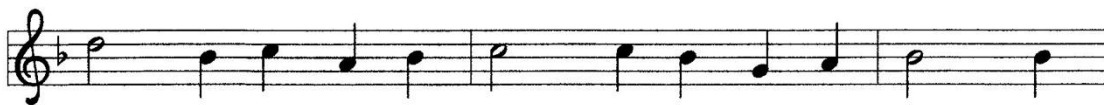
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Central's Book Club resumes tomorrow (Monday, Sept 14th) at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome. To receive the **NEW** Zoom link, please email Betsy Berg (rb24berg@aol.com).

Together Tuesdays resume this week (Sept 15th) with the meal at 5:15pm; followed by Music Together class at 5:45pm; Children's Choir & Junior Cantors rehearsal at 5:45pm; and Adult Education at 6pm.

Mark your calendars... The Friends Organ Concert, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Brombaugh Organ, will be held at Central on Sunday, September 27th at 4pm. The concert features ElRay & Lindsey and friends. Invite yours!

Camp Lutherwood Harvest Fest - Sunday, September 27th from 3-7pm

This annual fundraising event will take place at Camp (22960 Highway 36, Cheshire). Taste the bounty of the Long Tom Watershed prepared by Chef Elliott, engage in the live auction hosted by Patrick Siver, raise your paddle, and hear more about Camp! This year's theme is Pacific North-Western—Think *Cowboy meets Oregon*. Bonus points for the best plaid. Can't make it to the event? Participate in the online auction! Bidding begins on Sept 18th and will close during the event. Here is the link to register and/or to see the auction items: <https://HarvestFest2026.fundraiser.support>.

Quilt Sunday is October 11th. This year there will be a drawing for the handmade quilt on display. Simply write your name and phone number on a slip of paper, make a donation (of any amount), and you could be the winner! All donations will be used to defray the cost of shipping and to purchase quilting supplies. The drawing will take place after worship on the 11th, and the winner will then be contacted.