

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
8:30am Worship



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



CENTRAL LUTHERAN'S 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 *O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen* - Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you're able)*

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.**

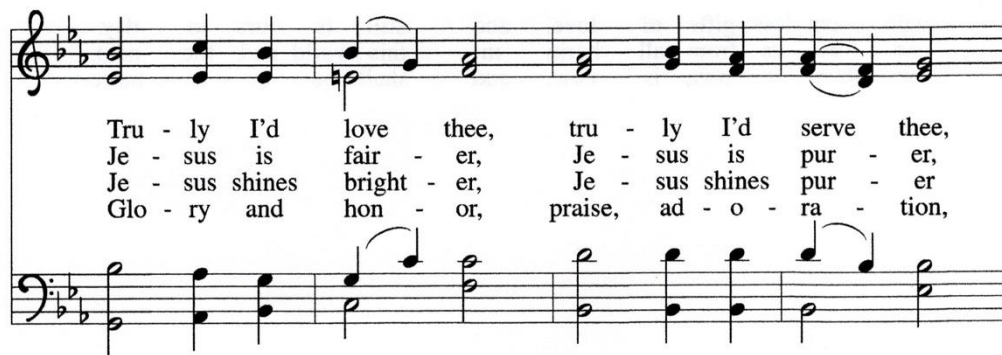
ENTRANCE HYMN #838 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



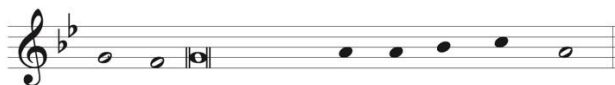
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, 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 defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Organ

3 *Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu ia, al-le-lu ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon-or, bless-ing and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu ia, al-le-lu ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion. Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to

Final refrain

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 al-le-lu ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Teach us, O God, **to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**
(please be seated)

WORD

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die... Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why

will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.
The word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9



To¹ you, O Lord, I lift¹ up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be¹ put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph¹ over me.**

Let none who look to you be¹ put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame¹ who are treacherous.

**Show me your¹ ways, O Lord,
and teach¹ me your paths.**

Lead me in your¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have
I trusted all¹ the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compas-¹ sion and love,
for they are from¹ everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the
sake of your good-¹ ness, O Lord.

**You are gracious and up-¹ right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners¹ in your way.**

You lead the low-¹ ly in justice
and teach the low-¹ ly your way.

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

ANTHEM

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

Cantors

SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of Life. **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.

HYMN #806 O God, My Faithful God *(please stand)*

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

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

Nearer My God to Thee

Cantors

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

MEAL

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

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might: — heaven and
earth are full of your glo ry. — Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na
— in the high - est, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
— Ho-san - na — in the high-est. — Ho - san - na — in the high - est.

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



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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

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 #842 O Worship the King *(see back page)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

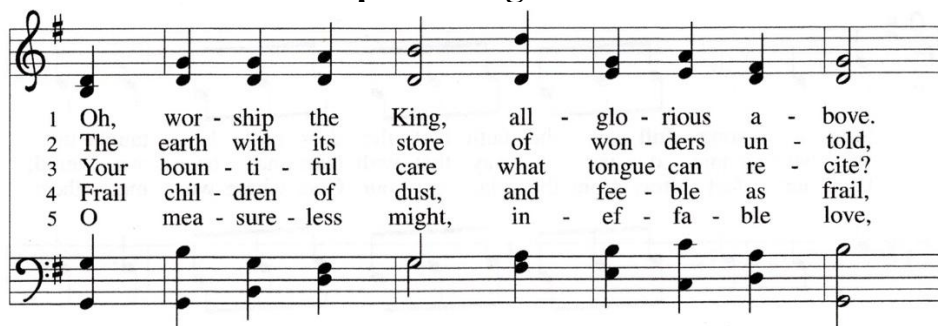
We invite you to remain seated through the voluntary; however, if you choose to depart, we kindly ask you to do so in silence.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elert

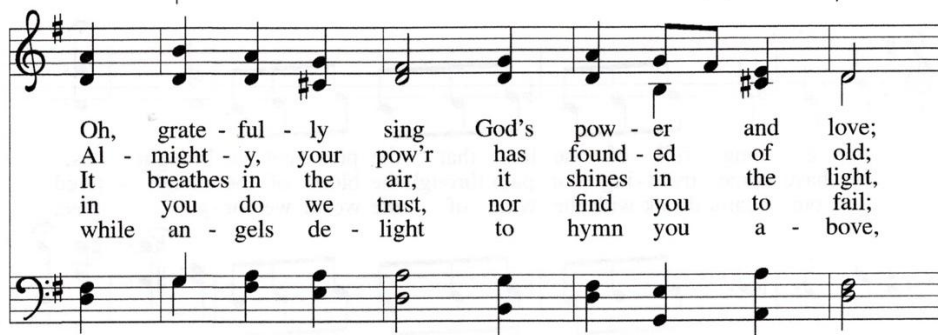
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Today's Cantors: Alyse Jamieson & David Gustafson

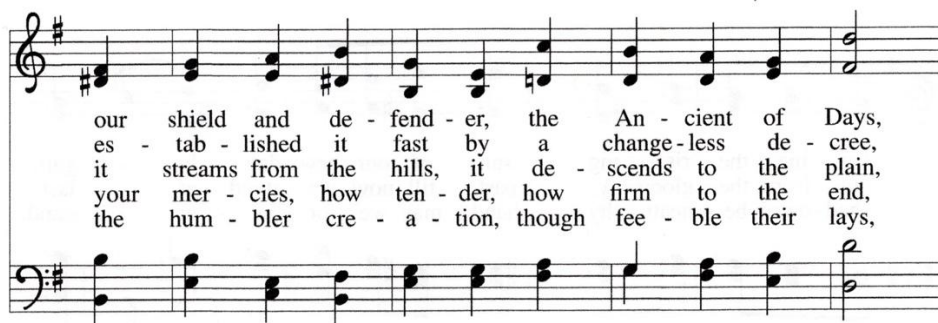
HYMN #842 O Worship the King



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

*Join us this afternoon at 4pm in the Sanctuary for the
“ElRay & Lindsey and Friends Concert”*

Music for church and the stage by Bach, Handel, Bizet, Puccini and Franck with Taylor Hulett, Soprano; Alyse Jamieson, Mezzo; David Gustafson, Tenor; Stephen Rodgers, Tenor; John Shields, Baritone; Blake Hodgetts, Bass; Stephen Keese, Bass; Pilar Bradshaw & Andy Strietelmeier, Violins; Austin Bennett, Cello; The Central Brass Ensemble, and Timpani.

Upon the recommendation of the Call Committee, the Church Council is calling for a special congregational meeting to be held next Sunday, October 4th, at 9:45am in the Parish Hall 1) to vote on extending a two-year term call to Joel Timmons to serve as Associate Pastor; and 2) to approve his Compensation and Benefits package.

Representatives from the Call Committee and the Church Council will be on hand this morning in the Parish Hall to answer any questions you may have in anticipation of next week’s meeting.

Next Sunday, October 4th is the Annual Blessing of the Animals where we celebrate all God’s creatures, great and small. You are welcome to bring your four-footed companions and other creatures to church with you for a special blessing during worship at 8:30am and 11am.

Quilt Sunday is October 11th. This year there will be a drawing for the handmade quilt on display in the Sanctuary. To enter the drawing, simply make a donation (of any amount), write your name and phone number on a slip of paper, place it in the globe on the Info Table in the Narthex and you could be the winner! All donations will be used to defray the cost of shipping and to purchase quilting supplies. If writing a check, please put “Quilters” on the memo line. The drawing will take place after worship on the 11th, and the winner will then be contacted.

Bags of Joy are ready for delivery! The Bags of Joy are on a table in the Narthex. Take one (or more) of the bags and deliver them to our elders. The name and address of the recipients are printed on the bags.

Campus Ministry News: Sunday Dinner Church, an Outreach to UO, LCC, and Bushnell students begins next Sunday, October 4th at 5pm. The evening includes a chef-prepared meal, bible study and lively discussions around theological topics and current events, and concludes with a brief worship service where we feast on the Lord's Supper. **Hearth & Table**, also an outreach ministry for college students, resumes on Thursday, October 15th with the meal served from 6:30-7:30pm. This year we are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Bond to the position of Supervising Chef. Chef Liz comes to us with a wealth of experience, including as an instructor in the Culinary Arts Department at LCC.

Don't forget... there's also a meal for members and friends of Central at **Together Tuesdays each week starting at 5:15pm.** The evening includes Music Together for the little ones, Children's Choir & Junior Cantors Rehearsal for our youth, and Education Forums for the Adults! A special word of thanks to Sue Mathisen & Kari Shorack for prepping the meal and to all who help with clean-up afterwards!

**Mark your calendars... Invite your friends
To the 56th Annual Chi Rho series on October 23rd-24th**

Featuring Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers in an interactive educational series titled: *Lead, Wood, Air, Flesh, and Bone: Musical Elements of Sacred Space.*

Friday, October 23rd at 7pm: Chi Rho Lecture
Saturday, October 24th at 10am: All ages Pipe Organ Exploration
and Saturday at 4pm: Organ Vespers