

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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

Pastor Laurie A Jones
pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 206-354-6756

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook
Organist/Choirmaster
aesc@welcometocentral.org

Vicar Robyn Quiring
Seminarian Intern, United & Central
vicar.robyn@unitedlutheran.org

Kelly Colvin-Smith
Parish Administrator
churchoffice@welcometocentral.org

Joel Timmons, Pastoral Staff
joel@welcometocentral.org
mobile: 503-747-9869

Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers
Assoc. Organist/Children's Music
lindsey.henriksen@gmail.com

Crystal Miller, Children/Youth
Minister for Central/United/Emmaus
crystal@unitedlutheran.org

Cindy Culpepper
Financial Manager
cindy@welcometocentral.org

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

Pastorale - Philip Hayes

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 Come Join Our Worship

1 Come, join our wor - ship, bow in a - dor - a - tion,
 2 Trum - pets are blar - ing; winds and strings vi - bra - ting;
 3 Look to the Gos - pel full of in - spir - a - tion;
 4 Fa - ther, Al - migh - ty, with your Word ex - cite us -

Sing psalms and hymns of praise and e - xal - ta - tion:
 Drums beat out rhy - thm, while the or - gan's play - ing.
 Then, at the Ta - ble, feast on Christ's ob - la - tion.
 Je - sus, Vic - tor - ious, to your Arms in - vite us -

This is the day for joy - ful cel - e -
 Saints dwell - ing on earth and in heav'n are
 Chris - tians, call out to each and ev - 'ry
 Life - giv - ing Spi - rit, by your Breath ig -

bra - tion. To God be glo - - - ry!
 pray - ing. Sing: "Al - le - lu - - - ia!"
 na - tion: "Come, share the bless - - - ing!"
 nite us - Now and for - ev - - - er!

Text: R. Michael Cullinan, 1937 - 2025

Tune: Shades Mountain 11.11.11.5.

K. Lee Scott, b 1950

Written for Central Lutheran Church

July 2009

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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-va-tion, 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

3 *Refrain*

Organ 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. Almighty and eternal God, **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

WORD

FIRST LESSON **Jonah 3:10-4:11**

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun

beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 145:1-8

I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit.

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

ANTHEM

Lovely Appear – Gounod

Chorale

SECOND LESSON **Philippians 1:21-30**

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. 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)*



Cantors: Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.
Repeat antiphon.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

The gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** Jesus said to the disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

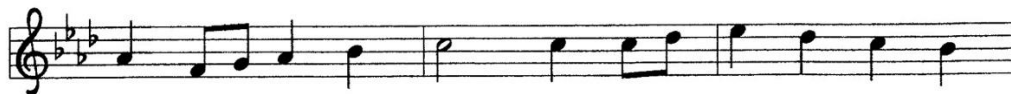
SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #724 All Who Love and Serve Your City (*please stand*)



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.
 Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 spurns him, of - f'ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.
 glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

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

Be Still My Soul – Jean Sibelius

Chorale

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)*



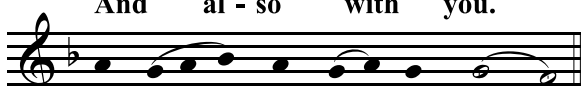
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



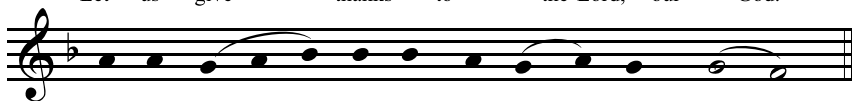
And al - so with you.



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



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

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

INSTALLATION OF SEMINARY INTERN VICAR ROBYN QUIRING

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 On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing, glad - ly let us go. Christ our Lord has
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther, joy - ful songs we sing; un - to God the
con - quered; van - quished is the foe. Christ with - out, our safe - ty;
Sav - ior, thank - ful hearts we bring; un - to God the Spir - it,
Christ with - in our joy; who, if we be faith - ful, — can our hope de - stroy?
bow we and a - dore. on our way re - joic - ing, now and ev - er - more.
On our way re - joic - ing; — as we for - ward move,
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John Monsell

St. Gertrude
Music: Arthur Sullivan

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

Menuet gothique

Boëllmann

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

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. Cash donations can be placed in the offering plate, but should be in an envelope marked “Quilters.” The drawing will take place after worship on the 11th, and the winner will then be contacted.

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