

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 15, 2026  
8:30am & 11am Worship



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, OR  
[www.welcometocentral.org](http://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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## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

## PRELUDE

*Interludio*

Alfonso de Elías

## WELCOME

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN #322 Oh, Love, How Deep, How Broad



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



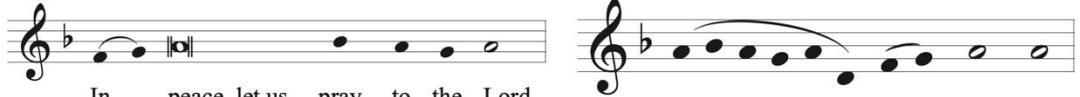
God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

# 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.**

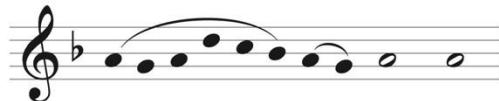
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



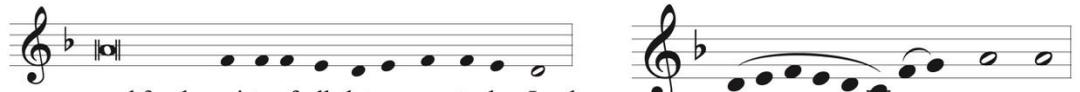
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



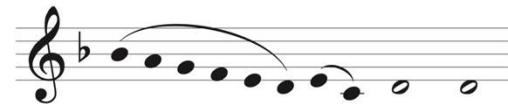
For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



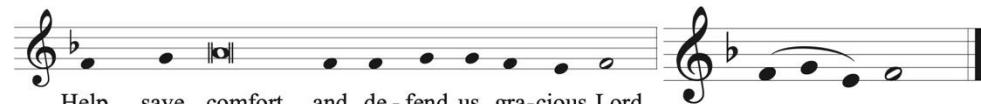
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer-cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Lent*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, **and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**ANTHEM (8:30)** *I Waited for the Lord* – Mendelssohn Chorale

## FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

*Assembly sings entire Psalm*



**The Lord** | **is my shepherd;**

**I shall not** | **be in want.**

**The Lord makes me lie down** | **in green pastures**  
**and leads me be-** | **side still waters.**

**You restore my** | **soul, O Lord,**

**and guide me along right pathways** | **for your name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I shall** | **fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they** | **comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence** | **of my enemies;**

**you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is** | **running over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days** | **of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the** | **Lord forever.**

**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 (8:30)**

*What Wondrous Love*  
Children's Choir

Charles Dupree

**ANTHEM (11:00)**

*Your Prison, Lord Has Paid the Price*

Cantor

**SECOND LESSON Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*During the Gospel Acclamation our children are invited to join Vicar Joel in the Chapel for a special message. They will return during the sharing of the peace.*

**LENTEN ACCLAMATION** *(please stand as you are able)*

Handbells

Glo - ry and praise

to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Cantors:* Jesus says, I am the light<sup>l</sup> of the world;\* whoever follows me will have the<sup>l</sup> light of life. **Repeat antiphon.**

## **GOSPEL    John 9:1-41**

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and

they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

# HYMN #757 All My Hope on God Is Founded *(please stand)*



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my  
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,  
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,  
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,  
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,  
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -  
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by  
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy  
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.  
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.  
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.  
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

## **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**

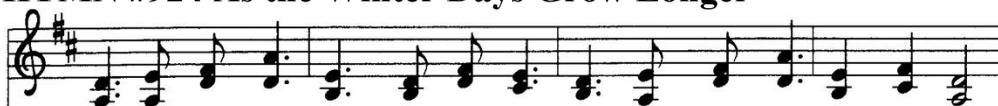
*When the leader says, "God, in your mercy,"  
you are invited to respond, "Hear our prayer."*

## **PEACE**

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

## **OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

## HYMN #924 As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light -  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer -  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!



## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## 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 in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 pow'r and might:  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray as Je - sus taught us.

Our Fa - ther in heav - ven hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil, For the king - dom, the pow'r

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for-ev - er. A - men. —

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION *(be seated)*

*You are invited to come forward and kneel (or stand) at the altar rail to receive communion. You will receive the bread in the form of a wafer and then you may drink from the individual cups of either red wine or white grape juice. If you prefer not having to navigate the stairs you may come forward and sit in the front pew (or remain where you are) and the communion servers will come to you. This is Christ's meal, and it is Christ who bids you come. All are welcome.*

## 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. A-men.

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

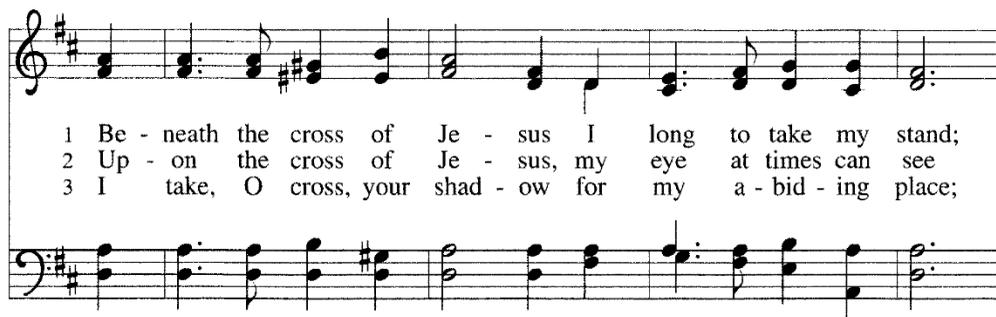
## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

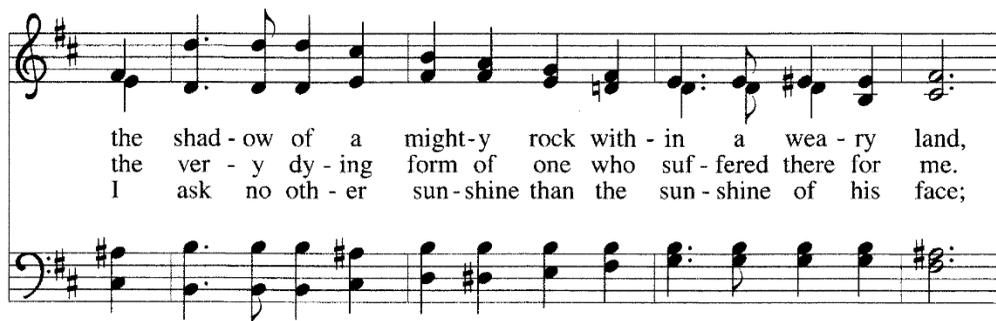
## BENEDICTION *(please stand)*

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

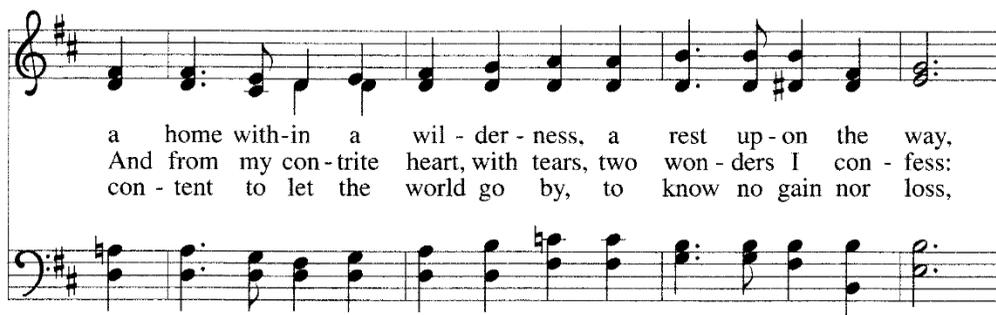
## HYMN #338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus (*Stanza 3, a cappella*)



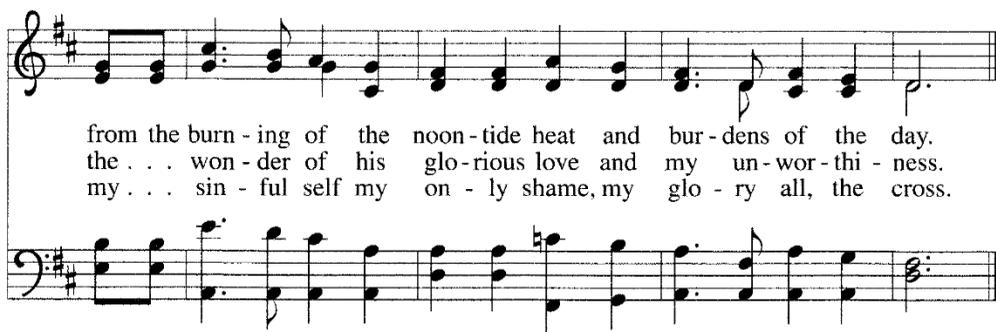
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



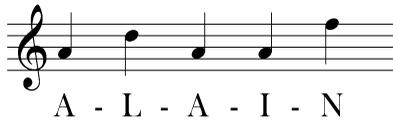
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*You may remain seated during the Organ Voluntary; however if you choose to depart, we kindly ask you to do so in silence until you reach the Narthex.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY: *Fugue based upon the name ALAIN* - Duruflé



Jehan Alain, a young and promising French organist/composer, died during World War I leaving only a few brilliant compositions, one of which is entitled *Litanies* and is regularly heard as a voluntary

here at Central. Duruflé composed this Prelude and Fugue in homage to a young talent who suffered a premature death using the letters of ALAIN by extending the musical alphabet.

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**Lectors: (8:30)** Larry Sutton & **(11:00)** Jim Savage

**Cantor (11:00):** Bernie Bopp

*New members will be received on Palm Sunday, March 29th, at both the 8:30am & 11:00am worship services. If you are interested in finding out more about membership at Central, simply fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate as you come forward for communion or let Pastor Laurie know.*

*Children & youth are invited to a Pre-Easter Party on Saturday April 4. Join us for an Egg Hunt (and more!) at 10am in the Parish Hall.*

## Central Lutheran Church 2026 Schedule for Lent – Easter

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lent / Holy Week / Easter</b>
March 15, 22 (Sundays)	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
March 17, 24 (Together Tuesdays)	Soup Supper at 5:15pm; Music Together & Children's Choir at 5:45pm; Adult Ed at 6pm with Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7:00pm
Mar 18, 25 (Wednesdays)	Lenten Matins Worship in the Chapel at noon followed by a soup luncheon in the Narthex
March 29 Palm Sunday	Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
April 2 Maundy Thursday	Worship at noon at United Lutheran or at Central at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
April 3 Good Friday	Chapel open for prayer between noon & 3pm; Worship at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
April 4 Pre-Easter Party	Children & Youth are invited to a pre-Easter Party for an Egg Hunt (and more!) at 10am in the Parish Hall
April 4 Vigil of Easter	Worship at United Lutheran at 7pm
April 5 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am