

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
8:30 & 11am Worship



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

Welcome to Worship!

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, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE *Meditation on Were You There* Evelyn Simpson-Curenton

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you are able)*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

Most Merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage 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, as that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained ministry of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN #504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



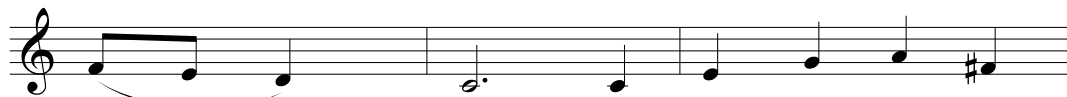
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No



sword and shield vic - to - rious; He
 would be lost, re - ject - ed. But
 threat - ning to de - vour us, We
 thanks to foes, who fear it; For



breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal - va - tion
 now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God him - self e -
 trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not o - ver -
 God him - self fights by our side With weap - ons of the



glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic
 lect - ed. You ask who this may
 pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant
 Spir - it; Were they to take our



foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful
 be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus might - y
 rage; In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to
 house, Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a -



might he arms him - self to fight, On
 Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He
 fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One
 way, They can - not win the day; The

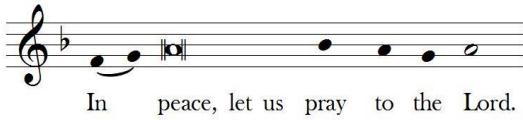


earth he has no e - qual.
 holds the field vic - to - rious.
 lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

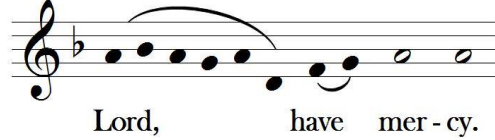
GREETING

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.**

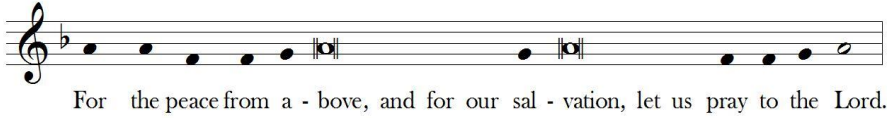
KYRIE



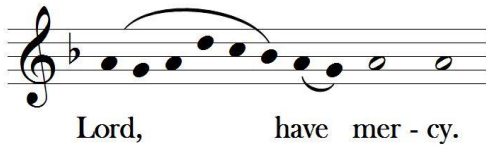
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



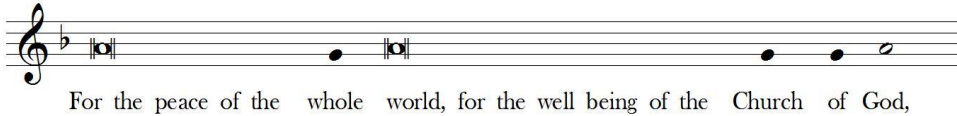
Lord, have mer-cy.



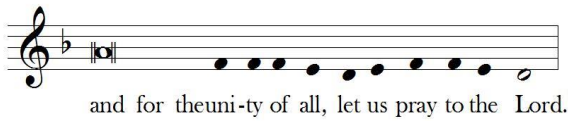
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



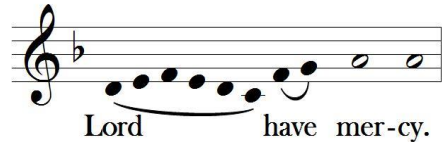
Lord, have mer-cy.



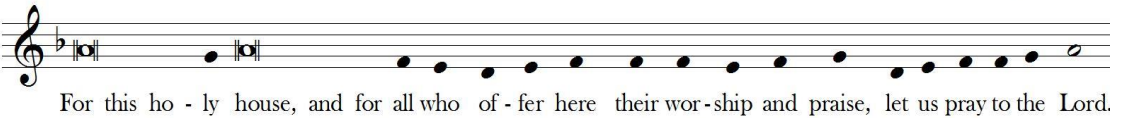
For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



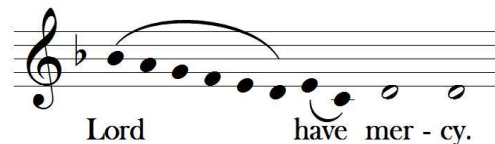
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



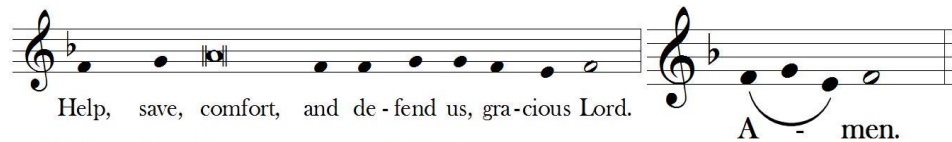
Lord have mer-cy.



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. Amen.

The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Lent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy and merciful God, **in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN ACCLAMATION (*please stand*)

Handbells

Glor - ry and praise

to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Cantor: One does not live by ^l bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the ^l mouth of God. **(Repeat Antiphon)**

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

The Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well

pleased.”¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN OF THE DAY #923 When We Are Tested (*please stand*)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess 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

PEACE

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

You may bring your offering forward during communion and place it in the plate.

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION (11:00)

OFFERTORY HYMN (8:30) The Glory of These Forty Days



1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e - brate with songs of praise;
2. A - lone and fast - ing Mos - ses saw the lov - ing God who gave the law;
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered from the li - ons' might;
4. Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in fast and prayer to you.



for Christ, through whom all things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
and to E - li - jah, fast - ing came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
and John, the Bride - groom's friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's flame.
Our spir - its strength - en with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

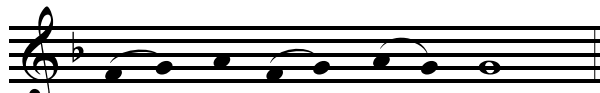
OFFERTORY PRAYER *(please stand)*

Let us pray. Gracious and merciful God, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



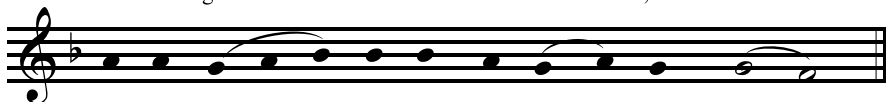
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

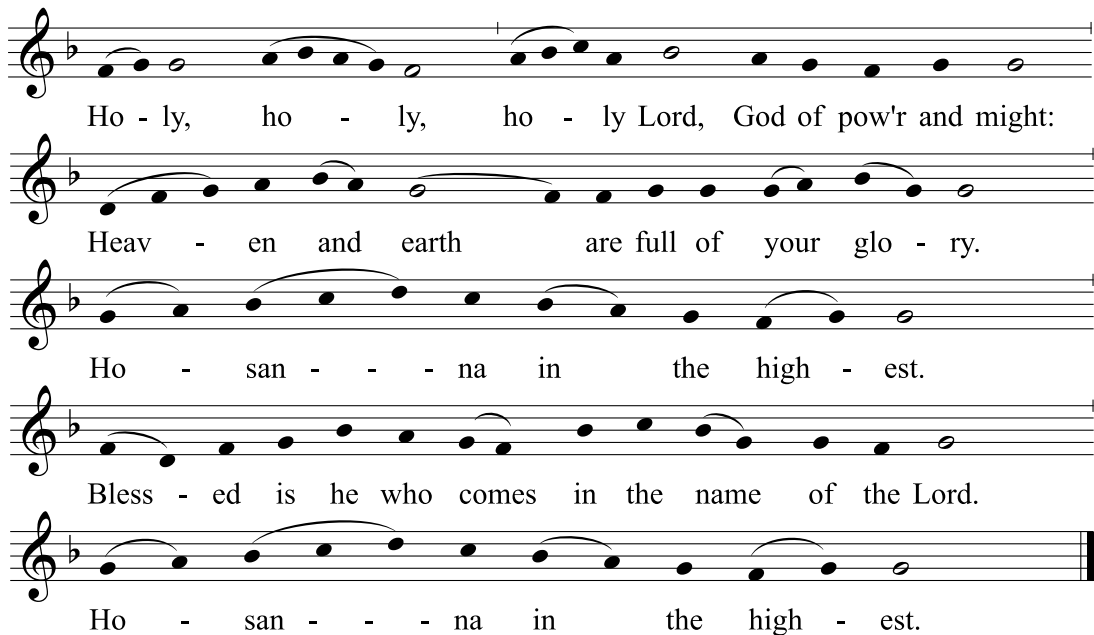


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.____

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(please be seated)*

You are invited to come forward with hands outstretched to receive the bread in the form of a wafer and then intinct (dip) the wafer into the cup with red wine or white grape juice, as you hear the words: "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." (Gluten-free wafers are also available.)

COMMUNION 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. A-men.

ANTHEM (11:00) *As the Deer Runs to the River* - Hurd Cantor

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Westminster de Carillon*

Louis Vierne

As organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris during the 1920s, Vierne made many trips to London to play in the English capital. During a visit, he became intrigued by the melodic themes of the bells in Big Ben at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster as it struck the hours. Upon returning to Paris, he composed this piece using the themes from Big Ben and dedicated it to the famous English organ builder, Henry Willis.

The liturgy is adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, reprinted by permission through One License #A-706755 with special permission to live-stream granted by Augsburg Fortress and One License.

Cantor at 11am: Steve Rodgers

Junior Cantors at 11am: Charlotte Miller, Sam Rodgers, Arya Saks, Signe Smith, and CJ Strietelmeier

Lenten Midweek Series with a NEW schedule: Our Lenten Midweek series begins on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Our theme is “*Journeying with God through our Wilderness.*” The series will begin with a simple soup supper at 5:15, then worship begins at 6pm in the Parish Hall with an interactive reflection on the Word of God (which stands as our homily for the evening), concluding with Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary (6:45-7:15) Note: Music Together and Children’s Choir rehearsal is at the usual time (6:00-6:45pm) followed by Junior Cantors (6:45-7:15pm).

Mark your calendars for The Concordia Choir Concert on March 10.

The choir from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN will be singing at Central on March 10 at 4pm. Tickets are \$35 for premium seating, \$25 for general admission. Students of all ages are free. Tickets can be purchased between services, in the office, or online at www.theconcordiachoir.org.

Central Lutheran Church 2024 Schedule for Lent thru Easter

Date	Lent / Holy Week / Easter
February 14 Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Worship at noon & 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
February 18, 25 March 3, 10, 17	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
February 20, 27 March 5, 12, 19 Together Tuesdays	Soup Supper at 5:15pm; Music Together & Children's Choir at 6pm; Interactive Worship at 6pm with Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45pm
March 24 Palm Sunday	Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
March 28 Maundy Thursday	Worship at 7:30pm
March 29 Good Friday	Worship at noon & 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
March 31 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am

“Journeying with God through our Wilderness”
Based on Exodus chapters 15-20

Together Tuesday topics for Interactive Worship:

Feb 20: Joy of freedom & the anxiety of vulnerability in the Wilderness

Feb. 27: Groundlessness, despair, lament, & complaint in the Wilderness

Mar 5: Theology of need rather than abundance in the Wilderness

Mar 12: Sabbath in the Wilderness, gift and challenge

Mar 19: Caring for others in the Wilderness