

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17, 2023  
8:30am Worship



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene Oregon  
541-345-0395  
[www.welcometocentral.org](http://www.welcometocentral.org)

## Welcome to Central!

**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.

**A special word of welcome to our guests today:** Thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a first-time or occasional visitor and would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you'd like to hear from us, we invite you to fill out the visitor information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Also, if you wish to find out more about Central, we invite you to visit our website *welcometocentral.org*.

**Parents of young children:** We welcome the sound of little ones in worship and so we encourage children and parents to worship together. However, if it is helpful to you, you are welcome to utilize the children's space located adjacent to the Narthex (entrance) to the Sanctuary. Additionally, there are children's bags and kid's bulletins available in the Narthex.

**Large print bulletins as well as hearing assistance receivers are also available** from the ushers. Please note: if your personal hearing device has a T-Coil there are Hearing Loops in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

## PRELUDE

*In Green Pastures*

Harold Darke

## WELCOME

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

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 is kept for reflection and 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, so 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN #864 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

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



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GLORIA

*Austria*



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to  
 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to



all the earth. Might - y God of all cre - a - tion,  
 Lord of love. Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior,  
 you we call; Ho - ly One in faith we name you,



Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: we ex - alt you,  
 you have come from heav'n a - bove; on the cross you  
 God most high, yet near to all: Je - sus Christ, with



we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you;  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us;  
 For the peace that we in - her - it,



here on earth our songs we raise.  
 in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 glo - ry be to God on high!

## 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.** *(please be seated)*

## FIRST READING    **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.*

<sup>15</sup>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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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

<sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, | O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the Lord, | O my soul, and forget not | all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins and heals all | your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life | from the grave**

**and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**



<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O Lord, you provide | vindication and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>**Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
 slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
 nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is | from the west,  
 so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>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 begin- ning, is now, and will be fore- | ver. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*With a Voice of Singing* Shaw

Chorale

## **SECOND READING    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.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff is labeled 'Handbells' and contains a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second and third staves are for vocal parts, with lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia' written below the notes. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The score ends with a double bar line. The copyright notice '© John Shields, 2021' is located at the bottom right of the third staff.

*Cantors* We have an advocate, Jesus <sup>1</sup> Christ the righteous;\* your sins are forgiven on account <sup>1</sup> of his name. **Repeat Antiphon**



## **GOSPEL MATTHEW 18:21-35**

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>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 OF THE DAY #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, 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 are invited to place your offering in the plate  
as you come forward for communion.*

**OFFERTORY**    *Let Us Break Bread Together*    Hopson                      Chorale

## OFFERING RESPONSE *(please stand as you are able)*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:  
heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!  
Bless - ed be the ris - en Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!


## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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.**

## 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 *(please stand as you are able)*

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

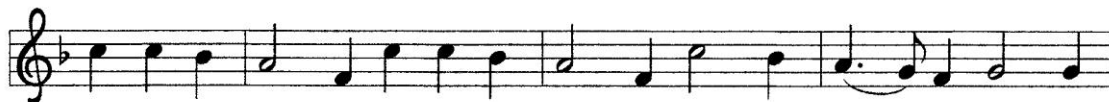
## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN #867 In Thee Is Gladness



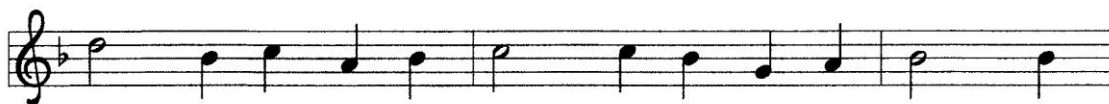
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my  
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



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



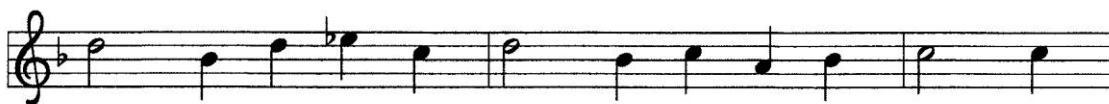
true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou  
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



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!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **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 “Fiddle Fugue” BWV 539.2 Johann Sebastian Bach**

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Bulletin Cover image, “Lord’s Prayer and Crucifix” is open access from Wikimedia Commons

Stephen Ministry Sunday next **Sunday, September 24th!** Plan to celebrate this important ministry with us in worship. In addition, you are invited to a hosted brunch between services in the Parish Hall (9:45-10:45) to hear more about the Stephen Ministry Program at Central. You will learn about Stephen Ministers, what they do, how to discern when you or a loved one might need one, and about the training program for a new group of Stephen Ministers starting in January 2024. Come and enjoy - learn, eat, join in fellowship! The Stephen Ministry Program at Central has continued for well over 30 years!

**Interested in membership at Central?** Talk to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben to find out ways you can connect to Central and become more engaged in our life together.

**Long-time member of Central?** Talk to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben to find out ways you can connect to Central and become more engaged in our life together.

**Organ Concert** next Sunday, Sept. 24 at 4pm featuring Amanda Mole



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