



Central Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
8:30 & 11am Worship

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.

Parents of young children: We welcome the sound of little ones making a joyful noise in worship and so we encourage children and parents to worship together. If it is helpful to you, you are additionally welcome to utilize the children's space located adjacent to the Narthex (entrance) to the Sanctuary.

Large print bulletins as well as **hearing assistance receivers are available**. Also, if your personal hearing device has a **T-Coil** there are **Hearing Loops** in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.

During the season of Lent our Sunday Adult Education Hour (9:45-10:45am) will take place in the Parish Hall while children are invited to meet in the Godly Playroom. **Mid-week Lenten worship** will take place as part of our Together Tuesdays programming beginning with Soup Supper at 5:15pm followed by Music Together, Children's Choir, and Adult Education at 6pm and concluding with Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm. **New Members will be received on Palm Sunday.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness Paul Manz

WELCOME

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help 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, 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 us, and for his sake God 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.**

HYMN #327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

1 Through the ___ night of doubt and ___ sor - row, on - ward ___ goes ___ the
 2 One the ___ light of God's own pres - ence on the ___ ran - somed
 3 One the ___ strain that lips of ___ thou - sands lift as ___ from the
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, ___ broth - ers; on - ward ___ with the

pil - grim band, sing - ing ___ songs of ex - pec - ta - tion,
 peo - ple shed, chas - ing ___ far the gloom and ___ ter - ror,
 heart ___ of one; one the ___ con - flict, one the ___ per - il,
 cross ___ our aid. Bear its ___ shame, and fight its ___ bat - tle

march - ing ___ to ___ the prom - ised land. Clear be ___ fore us
 bright - 'ning ___ all ___ the path ___ we tread. One the ___ ob - ject
 one the ___ march in God ___ be - gun. One the ___ glad - ness
 till we ___ rest ___ be - neath its shade. Soon shall ___ come the

through the ___ dark - ness gleams and ___ burns the guid - ing ___ light;
 of our ___ jour - ney, one the ___ faith which nev - er ___ tires,
 of re - joic - ing on the ___ far e - ter - nal ___ shore,
 great a - wak - 'ning; soon the ___ rend - ing of the ___ tomb!

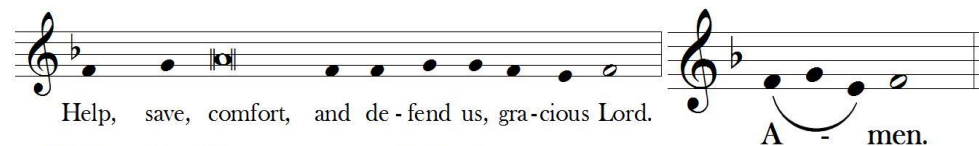
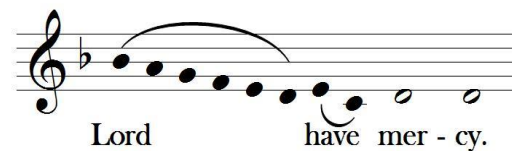
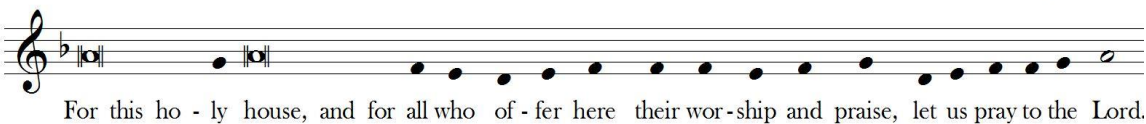
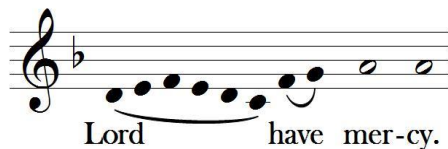
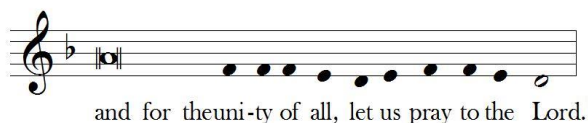
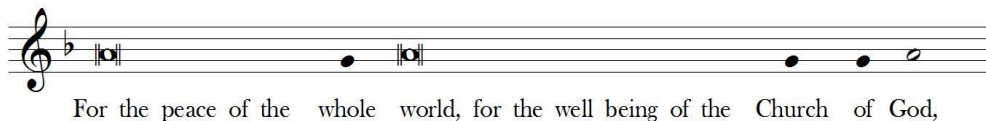
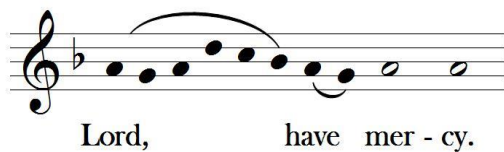
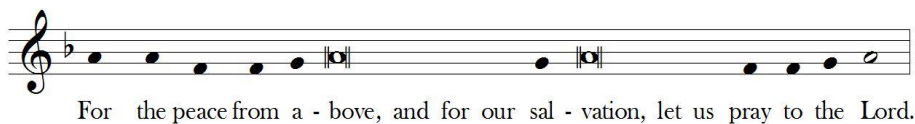
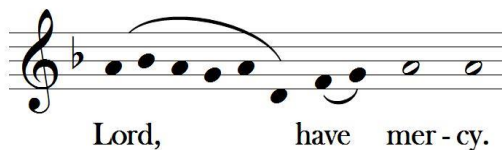
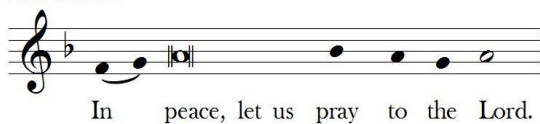
pil - grim ___ clasps the hand of ___ pil - grim
 one the ___ ear - nest look - ing ___ for - ward,
 where the ___ one al - might - y ___ Fa - ther
 Then the ___ scat - t'ring of all ___ shad - ows,

step - ping ___ fear - less through ___ the night.
 one the ___ hope ___ our God ___ in - spires.
 reigns in ___ love ___ for - ev - er - more.
 and the ___ end ___ of toil ___ and gloom.

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



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*)

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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.” ²Samuel 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.’” ³Invite 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.”

⁴Samuel 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?”

⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But 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.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.”

¹²He 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.”

¹³Then 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.**

ANTHEM (8:30) *Christus factus est* Anton Bruchner Chorale
*Christ became obedient for us unto death, even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore, God exalted him and gave him a name which is above all names.*

ANTHEM (11:00) *O, How He Loves You and Me* McChesney
Handbell Ensemble

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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.**

LENTEN ACCLAMATION (*please stand*)

Handbells

Glor - ry and praise

to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Cantor: Jesus says, I am the light ¹ of the world;* whoever follows me will have the ¹ light of life. (**Assembly repeats Antiphon**)

GOSPEL John 9:1-41 (*you may be seated*)

The Gospel according to John, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

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

SERMON

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

HYMN #815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (*please stand*)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of Righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life - is Je - sus. In Him there is no
show me the way to the Fa - ther. ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus. sus.

dark-ness at all. The night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

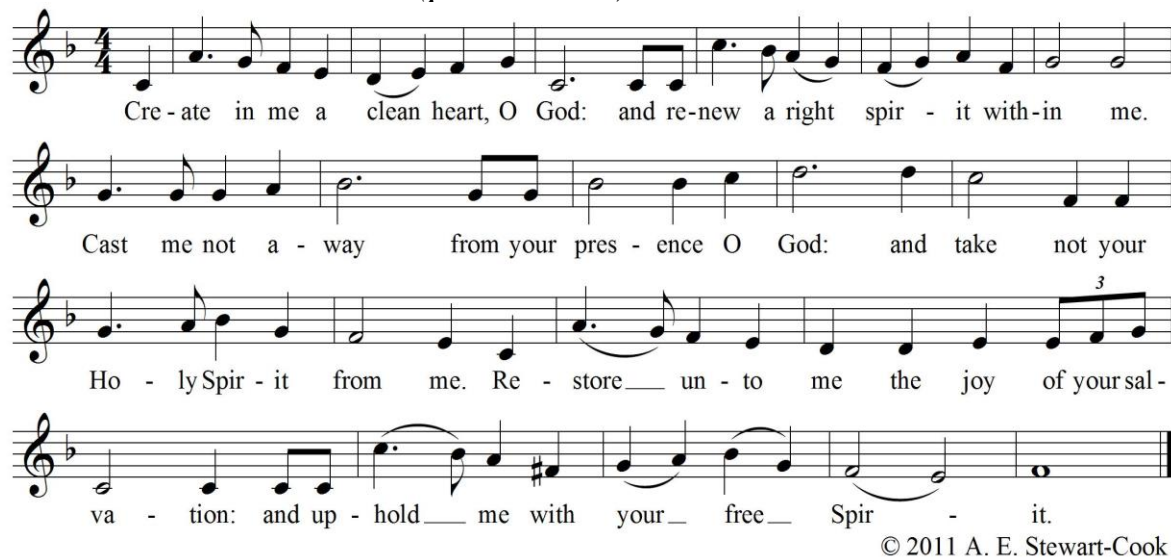
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING (8:30) *God So Loved the World* Bob Chilcott Chorale

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

OFFERING RESPONSE *(please stand)*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence O God: and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -

va - tion: and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

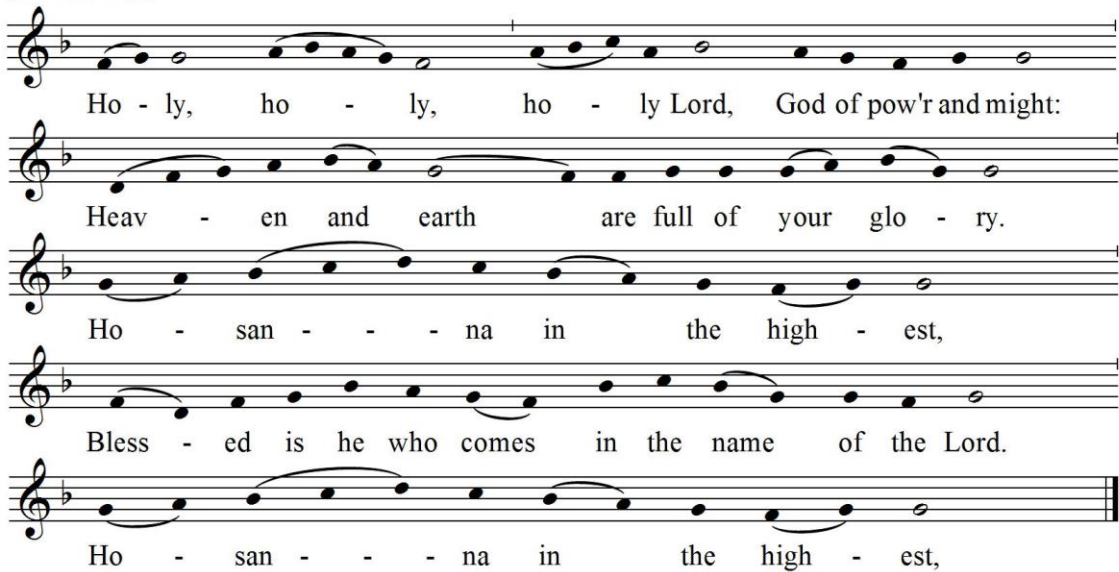
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, 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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Remembering therefore his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all glory in your holy church, 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

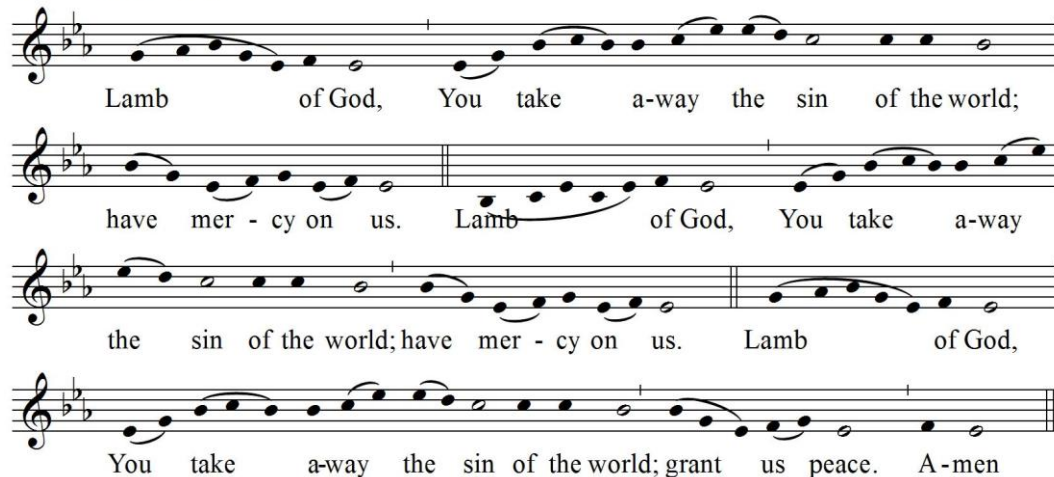
and de - liv - er us from e - vil, For the king - dom, the pow'r

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(please be seated)*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

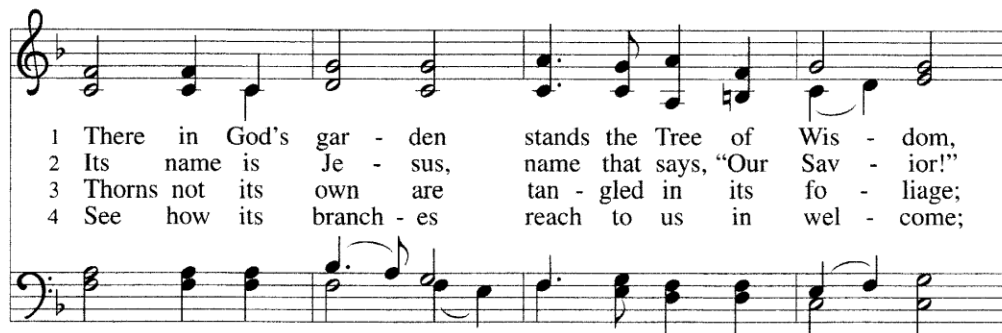
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION *(please stand)*

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 #342 There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY **Passacaglia**, BWV 582 Johann Sebastian Bach (1885-1750)

One of the great monuments of organ literature, the **Passacaglia** has served as the benchmark for composers writing theme and variations genres. Several composers in their sets of variations have approached the breath and magnitude of Bach's masterpiece but in 250 years, no one has surpassed it. The **Passacaglia** is based upon a theme, which is first presented alone in the pedal part. Following the introduction of the theme, Bach presents 20 variations during which the theme is present in either a specific voice of the texture or implied through the chordal structure. The Fugue which follows will not be heard today.

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: Honora Mathisen-Lund

Mark your calendars: The Church Council is calling a special meeting of the congregation on April 16, 2023 between services (9:45-10:45) in order to inform the congregation of important property maintenance issues. In the coming week you will be receiving a letter in the mail providing details about the specific issues, cost estimates, and the various options for addressing these issues.

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONS

Throughout the season of Lent, daily devotions—written by members and friends of Central—are being posted on Central’s FaceBook page as well as our website (welcometocentral.org). A word of thanks to all of our contributors!

LENTEN OFFERING

Special offerings during Lent are designated to Lutheran Disaster Response for earthquake relief in Turkey & Syria.

Date	2023 Lent/Holy Week/Easter Schedule
February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28	Together Tuesdays - 5:15-6pm Soup Supper; 6pm Music Together, Children’s Choir, Adult Ed; 7pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship
April 2 Palm Sunday	Worship with Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30pm
April 7 Good Friday	Prayer Vigil noon-3pm in the Chapel; Good Friday Worship at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
April 8 Holy Saturday	Easter Egg Hunt at 10am (meet in the Parish Hall)
April 9 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am

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GOSPEL John 9:1-41

The Gospel according to John, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this,

he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The

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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.”

Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some of the

Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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.” ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and

that he was born blind; ²¹but 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.” ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So 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.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus 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.**