

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026
8:30am Worship



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, OR 97403
www.welcometocentral.org

Central Lutheran Mission

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel.

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love.

We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people, regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, economic circumstance, and we firmly commit to racial equity. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service.

Central Lutheran Staff

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Prayers requests may be submitted to:
prayers@welcometocentral.org



CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE *His Eye is On the Sparrow* – Kraig Scott

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

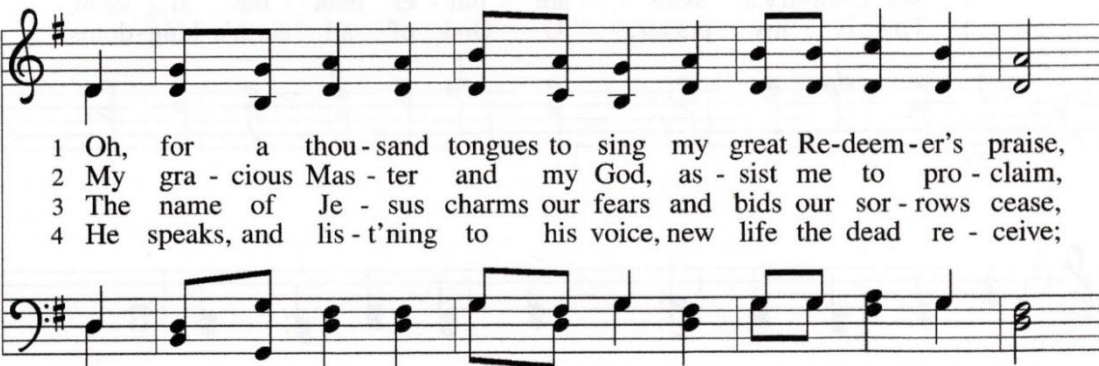
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our 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 #886 O, For a Thousand Tongues (*please stand*)



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

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.**

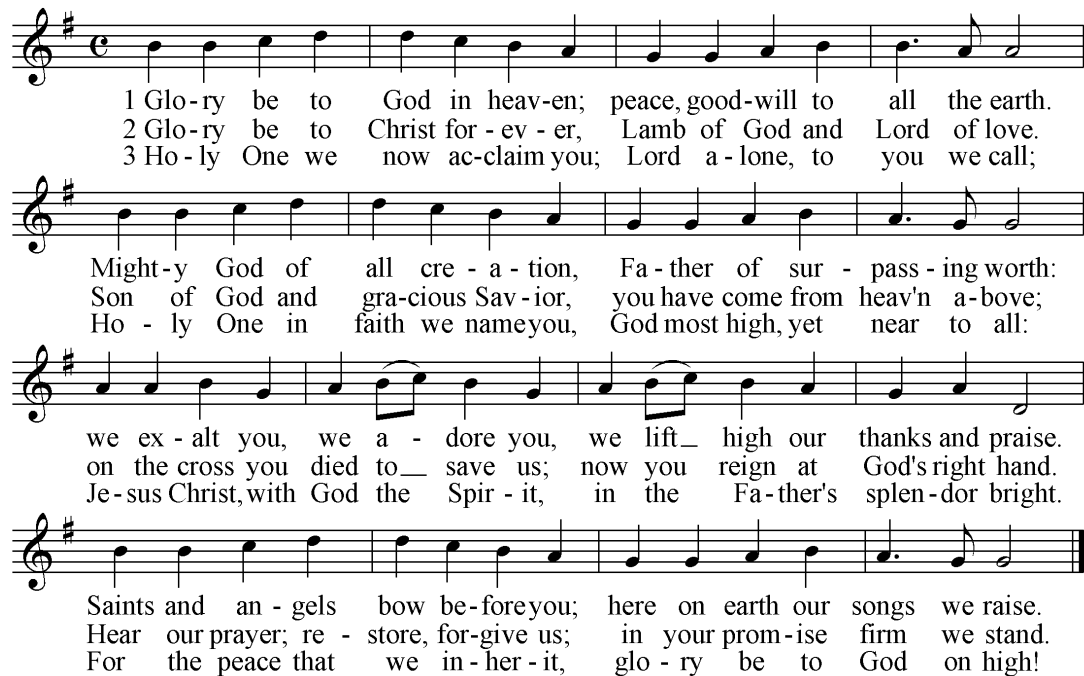
KYRIE



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



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

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift_ high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to_ save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (be seated)**

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM 67



May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on
earth.**

Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

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

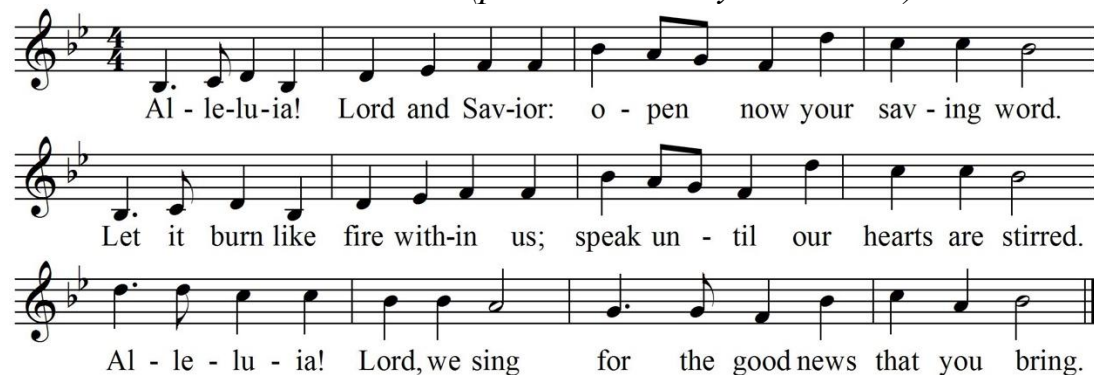
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore- | ver. Amen.

ANTHEM *Your Hands, O Lord, In Days of Old* – Carson Cooman
Cantors: John Shields & Steve Rodgers

SECOND LESSON **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

Paul writes: I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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



Al - le-lu-ia! Lord and Sav-ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL Matthew 15:10-28

The gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy *(please stand)*



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church throughout the ages, let us profess our Christian faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANTHEM *God Be In My Head* – Richard Shephard

Cantors

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(please stand as you're able)*

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, 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 Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death, and on this day as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exalts in boundless joy. 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, 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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, and ever. Amen. *(please be seated)*

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *(please stand)*

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN #650 In Christ There Is no East or West *(see next page)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to share the good news! **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 *Praeludium in D Minor – Johann Pachelbel*

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HYMN #650 In Christ There Is no East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Today's Cantors: John Shields & Steve Rodgers

Interested in membership at Central? We invite you to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate so we can contact you with more information.

The Church Council is calling a special meeting of the congregation following worship on Sunday, August 30th to vote on a revision to the 2026 Budget approved at the semi-annual meeting in January 2026 in order to add a Compensation & Benefits package in anticipation of calling an Associate Pastor.

Mark Your Calendars

In addition to ongoing ministries at Central such as **Men's Bible Study** (Wednesdays at 8am at the Springs); **Pastor's Bible Study** (Wednesdays at 11am via Zoom); **Women's Bible Study** (Thursdays at 11am in person or via Zoom); **Quilting** (1st & 3rd Thursdays at 9am); **Next Chapter/Grief Support** (2nd Thursday of the month at 9am); **Midweek Coffee Hour** (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 1pm)...

Our Fall Program Year Kicks-off in September:

- Wednesday, Sept 9th Adult Chorale rehearsals resume at 7pm
- Saturday, Sept 12th Children's Choir & Junior Cantors Retreat 9am-4pm at Central
- Sunday, Sept 13th Back to School Blessing at both services
- Monday, Sept 14th Book Club meets at 7pm via Zoom
- Sept 15th Together Tuesday resumes with meal at 5:15pm; followed by Music Together class at 5:45pm; Children's Choir & Junior Cantors rehearsal at 5:45pm; and Adult Education at 6pm
- Sunday, Sept 20th Confirmation Mentor & Mentee Munch & Mini-golf at 12:30pm (Meet at Roaring Rapids Pizza followed by mini-golf at Camp Putt Golf Park)
- Wednesday, Sept 23rd Confirmation Students & Parents Orientation with meal at United starting at 5:30pm
- Sunday, September 27th Brombaugh 50th Anniversary kick-off with Friends Organ Concert at 4pm in the Sanctuary

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

