

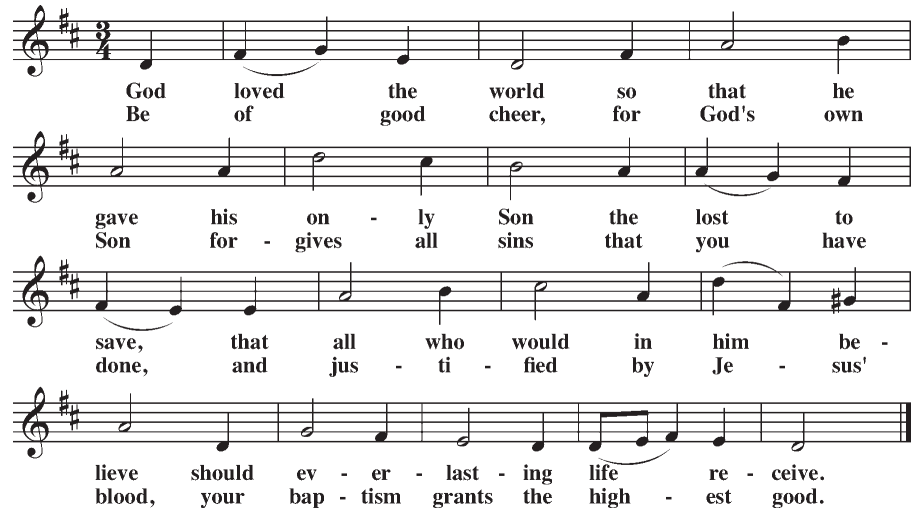
P Rock of our salvation,
A **we confess that we live in opposition to your gracious will for us.**
We have failed to be a blessing to others
by turning our backs on the needs of the poor.
We have exploited your creation
without regard for those who come after us.
By our sin, we are exiled from your presence;
our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost.
Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, that we may live.

P God's love is shown to us in that while we still were sinners,
 Christ died for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
 Your sin is washed away.
 In the waters of baptism you were joined with Christ,
 reborn as children of God, and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 You are free to live as God's people in the world.

A **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"God Loved the World"



God Be loved of the good world cheer, so for that God's he own
 gave his on - ly Son the lost to have
 Son for - gives all sins that you have
 save, done, that and all jus - ti - fied in him be -
 lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Words: *Gesangbuch*, Bolhaugen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923
 Music: *Rockingham Old*, adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P ...one God, now and forever.
A **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

*God speaks to us in
 scripture reading,
 preaching,
 and song*

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.



From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM *You deliver your people from their distress.* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Choir Refrain

All Refrain



Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose mercy endures for ever.

Choir Let all those whom the Lord has re|deemed pro-claim that the Lord redeemed them from the hand | of the foe. God gathered them out | of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

All Refrain

Choir Some were fools and took to re|bel-lous ways; they were afflicted because | of their sins. They abhorred all man|ner of food and drew | near death's door.

Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord, who delivered them from | their distress. God sent forth a | word to heal them and saved them | from the grave.

All Refrain

Choir Let them give thanks for the mer|cy of God, for the wonders the Lord does | for all people. Let them offer a sacrifice | of thanksgiving and recount the deeds of God with | shouts of joy.

All Refrain

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

AD Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind,
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Text: Gracia Grindal, based on Joel 2:13
 Music: KAS DZIEDAJA, Latvian folk tune
 Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.



GOSPEL

The lifting up of the Son of Man

John 3:14–21

The holy gospel according to John.

AD Glory to you, O Lord.

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.

AD Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Kristen Jacobson

“A 40-Day Journey: Into Life”
silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

(hymn) 666
stanza 3 choir

APOSTLES' CREED

A We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

Al **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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Led by Christ in our journey of repentance
and moved by his compassion,
let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation.

after each petition:

Lord in your mercy,

Al **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, merciful God,
we commend these and all for whom we pray,
trusting in your guidance and your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Al **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Al **And also with you.**

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

*God feeds us
with the presence
of Jesus Christ*

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*While the collection is received lay ministers prepare the table.
The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.*

Anthem

"If I Take the Wings of the Morning"

Alice Parker

*If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there shall thy hand lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me.*

Offertory Prayer

A Together let us pray.

AD **Merciful Father,**
we offer with joy and thanksgiving
what you have first given us —
our selves, our time, and our possessions,
signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

AD **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

AD **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

AD **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer



All are invited to receive these gifts of God.
Grape juice is available upon request.
Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
Communion at this service is served kneeling (as you are able) by individual chalices around the communion rail.

Lord's Prayer (1975)

A Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

Communion

"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, grant us peace.

Anthem

"Adoramus te, Christe"

Paolo Agostini

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.*

Table Blessing and Prayer after Communion

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

A Amen.

A Let us pray.

O God, our beginning and our end,
you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety
throughout the days of their pilgrimage,
and you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea.
Protect and guide us in our journeys.
Make our ways safe and our home-comings joyful,
and bring us at last to our heavenly home,
where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ
and the life-giving Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

*God blesses and sends us
in mission to the world*



*In keeping with the character of
today's service with healing
rites today's postlude is quiet
in nature. The composer used
phrases from the Book of
Common Prayer in putting
together his organ suite
"Rubrics."*

SENDING

INVITATION TO PRAYER AND ANOINTING FOR HEALING

BLESSING

P May the Lord turn his face toward us,
and guide our feet into the way of peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

A Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

(hymn) 811

DISMISSAL

Please face the entrance for the dismissal.

A Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

A Thanks be to God.

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.

POSTLUDE

"The peace may be exchanged" from Rubrics

Dan Locklair

*Individual prayers for healing will be offered during the postlude
as part of our ministry of healing.*

*Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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SERVING TODAY



Pastor D. Foy Christopherson	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Kristen Jacobson	<i>preaching</i>
Kris Shoephoerster	<i>assisting minister</i>
Mark Sedio	<i>cantor/organist</i>
Jane Lien	<i>associate cantor</i>
Männerchor	<i>choir</i>
Shirley Flachman, Debra Thelen,	
Jamey Grafing	<i>readers, 8:30</i>
David Molvik	<i>sound operator, 8:30</i>
Mark Forsberg, Ann Oyen,	
Christopher Haug	<i>readers, 11:00</i>
Mark Brodin	<i>sound operator, 11:00</i>
Richard Stegall	<i>sacristan</i>
Dave Dahl	<i>radio announcer</i>
Robert Tufford, Jean Matheson,	
Bob Ylvisaker	<i>lead ushers</i>
Karin Lilleodden, Jean McGrath,	
Leon & Deanne Tibben, Shirley Dahl,	
Ann Oyen, Barb Hoernemann,	
Allison Winblad, Judy Berge,	
Rick Johnston	<i>communion ministers</i>
Bob & Judy Erdman,	
Don & Darlene Erickson,	
John Bogard	<i>hosts and greeters</i>

Sunday worship is broadcast locally on WDGY 740 AM at 11 a.m.; or listen online from anywhere at wdgyradio.com. To sponsor a Sunday morning radio broadcast or refreshments in honor or memory of a loved one or a special occasion, contact Julie Pinomaki at 612.767-9212.

WORSHIP LIFE

Laying on of hands: a sign of healing, absolving and blessing

“And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.”

Matthew 19:15



Today in our worship service we offer laying on of hands and prayer for healing. In worship, laying hands on the head of a worshiper is a gesture that has come to be connected with the ministries of healing, absolving and blessing. Human beings instinctively lay a gentle hand on one another to convey love, care and compassion. This gesture of touch is evident in Gospel healing stories. We read of Jesus reaching out his hand, gently touching those in need as he healed them. Jesus blessed the children by the laying on of hands (Matthew 19:15). Within the worship service, the physical gesture of the laying on of hands can be a powerful moment of connection with the love, care and compassion of God. The laying on of hands is a significant physical gesture of blessing that recalls the promises of Baptism. In the baptismal rite, the prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the pastor laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized and is an acknowledgement and expression of the bestowing of the Holy Spirit through Baptism in water with the word of God. This action is recalled in the rites of Affirmation of Baptism and Ordination. Worshipers who receive the laying on of hands during absolution in the order of confession or during prayers for healing are also tangibly reminded of these baptismal promises. The laying on of hands is not restricted to the worshiping assembly. In pastoral care situations, the laying on of a hand with prayer may be part of a visit to someone who is sick, or it may be included when the Sacrament of Holy Communion is brought from the assembly to one who is ailing. An order of healing can be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* on page 276.

The laying on of hands is a powerful gesture of blessing that may be appropriate in a variety of circumstances. Groups or individuals may be blessed by touch when sent out into the world in mission work. A community of faith may surround a person in need of support with prayer and a touch to the head or shoulder. In this action, God's love and the prayers are embodied by the community of faith. Worship leaders must use care in any ministry that involves touch, including the laying on of hands. Be mindful of personal boundaries and an individual's comfort level. Make sure that the physical gesture is appropriate, has a clear intent and is welcomed.

Seeds for the Parish, ELCA, Chicago © May-June 2008

WELCOME!



Everyone is welcome. As a community of the people of God, the members of Central Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. We invite guests to complete the “Welcome to Central” card found in the pew racks and leave it with an usher or place it in the offering plate. If you would like more information about Central, please speak to a staff member or call the church at 612-870-4416.

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available at Sanctuary entrances. If you would prefer to use Central’s nursery (available for children ages four and younger), you will find it on the second floor of the Education Building. An usher will be glad to assist you.

Welcome to the Lord’s Table. All are welcome at the Lord’s Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to persons in designated access seating areas. If you are not in a designated access seating area and desire to commune where you are seated, please notify an usher who will direct communion ministers to come and serve you. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. Gluten-free breads and alcohol-free wine are available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

We envision becoming a thriving, vibrant model of urban Lutheran ministry for the 21st century. This lofty vision requires us to ask each day if our goals for worship, learning, and service are clearly reaching a diverse neighborhood and city in language and action that reflect the world as well as our heritage.



Large print service folders,
assisted listening devices, and access seating
are available to aid your participation in worship.
Please inquire with an usher.





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Grace abounds.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*in the heart of the city, welcomes all people
to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*
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Office – 612.870-4416 • Infoline – 612.767-9101 • www.centralmpls.org

