

savior
of the
nations
come



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 contact us at 612-870-4416, or email info@centralmpls.org.

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 up the steps from the information desk at the south entrance (across from the fellowship hall). An usher or greeter 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.



HOLY COMMUNION



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Katharina von Bora Luther,
renewer of the church, 1552

December 20, 2009 + 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Central - in the heart of the city, welcomes all people to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ

The Spirit and the font are the womb of our birth

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

The Holy Spirit gathers
us in unity
on the first day
of the week, the day of
Christ's resurrection

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Triptych on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

setting Mark Sedio

The carillon calls the assembly to worship.

At the sound of the carillon, the assembly stands and faces the entrance.

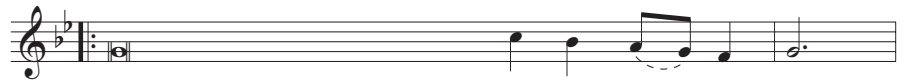
ENTRANCE RITE



Solo: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



All: Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Solo: Shepherd of Israel leading Jo - seph like a flock:
Raise up your might, O God, come to our aid:
We wait for your lovingkindness, O Lord in the midst of your temple:
A voice cries, "In the wilderness pre - pare the way of the Lord!
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it to - gether:



Stir up your strength, O Lord, and come!

CE
LRD
JESU



Solo: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



All: Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Not by hu-man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic



Breath of God, was the Word of God made flesh,



fruit of Mar - y, blos - som fresh.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Music: Johann Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

GREETING

P From the One who was, and who is, and who is to come:
Grace and peace be with you all.

A And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P ...one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

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

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus. (pew bible, front page 818)

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

FIRST READING

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people. (pew bible, back page 197)

Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *I have come to do your will*

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1:38

All 
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Choir Here I am, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.

All 
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things. (pew bible, back page 49)

GOSPEL *Blessed are you among women*

Luke 1:39-46a

The holy gospel according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

The gospel continues with this paraphrase of Luke 1:47-55, Mary's song of praise.

CANTICLE
"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

(hymn) 251
stanza 2 in harmony

*Please remain seated until the
8th stanza of the hymn.*

*Turn toward the Advent wreath
to face the worship leaders.*



The gospel of the Lord.

AD Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rick Nelson

“Is There a Song in Your Heart?”

silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*stanzas 1 & 2 - all; 3 - men, all on refrain; 4 - all;
5 - women, all on refrain; 6 - organ; 7 - choir; 8 - all (stand)*

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.

AD 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P As people called out of darkness,
let us confess our sin and seek mercy from the God of justice and
righteousness.

silence for self-examination

P I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life.

AD Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sin. Amen.

AD I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own
fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy
on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life.

P Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sin. Amen.

*God feeds us
with the presence
of Jesus Christ*

*During the flu season we will
refrain from exchanging
handshakes as a part of sharing
the peace.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope,
let us pray for the world redeemed,
the church reformed,
and for all people restored in the coming one.

after each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,

AD **hear our prayer.**

MEAL

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

AD **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,
including the care of those in need.*

During this time, the table is set.

*After the offering is gathered,
bread, wine, money, and other gifts are brought forward.*

The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.

Antem

“Ecce, concipies”

Jacob Handl

*And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.*

He will be great,

and will be called the son of the most high,

and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

AD **God of faithfulness,**

we bring before you

the precious gifts of your creation,

and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope

as we care for all those in need

until the coming of your Son, our Savior. 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.**

During Advent, portions of the liturgy will be sung to Gregorian tunes traditionally associated with the season.



All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Communion at this service is served kneeling (as you are able) by individual chalices around the communion rail.

Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.

The practice of "alternatim" settings in which portions of the liturgy, canticles or hymns were presented alternating chanted choir verses/stanzas and organ "commentaries" or improvisations were common from the Middle Ages through the Baroque.

God blesses and sends us in mission to the world

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of might!
 Heav'n and earth re - flect your glo - ry,
 ho - - - san - na in the heights!
 Bless - ed is he who comes - - - -
 in the name of the Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est!

Text: Liturgical (Sanctus/Benedictus)
 Music: *Divinum mysterium*, 13th century plainsong

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1975)

AD 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

Music during Communion

"Magnificat anima mea, Dominum"
 Gregorian verses of Mary's song of praise
 are sung in alternatim with organ stanzas by Dietrich Buxtehude.

Prayer after Communion

AD Amen.
 silence for reflection

SENDING

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.
AD Thanks be to God.

GE

LD

JESU

P The God of hope strengthen your hearts
as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

A Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(hymn) 254

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way.

A Thanks be to God.

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.

Please gather for fellowship following worship in the fellowship hall or south commons.

Brief sanctuary tours will be offered this morning following the postlude.

Gather at the pulpit.

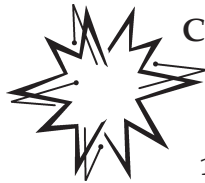
POSTLUDE

In this reflective season, you are invited to be seated for the postlude.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Andrew Carter

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4 p.m. — Twilight Service of Blessing

10:30 p.m. — Candlelight Holy Communion

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

10 a.m. — Holy Communion

Poinsettias may be picked up for delivery following the postlude on Christmas Day.

Sunday after Christmas, December 27

10 a.m. — Holy Communion Service of Carols

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 Barbara Brown at 612.767-9210.

SERVING TODAY



| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastor D. Foy Christopherson | <i>presiding</i> |
| Pastor Rick Nelson | <i>preaching</i> |
| Brad Boogren | <i>assisting minister</i> |
| Mark Sedio | <i>cantor/organist</i> |
| Jane Lien | <i>associate cantor</i> |
| Central Cantorei | <i>choir</i> |
| | |
| Diane Nimmer | <i>reader (8:30)</i> |
| Leon Tibben | <i>crucifer (8:30)</i> |
| David Molvik | <i>sound operator (8:30)</i> |
| | |
| Verne Melberg | <i>reader (11:00)</i> |
| Erik Rudeen | <i>crucifer (11:00)</i> |
| Mark Brodin | <i>sound operator (11:00)</i> |
| | |
| Richard Stegall | <i>sacristan</i> |
| Bob Tufford, | |
| Jean Matheson, Bob Ylvisaker | <i>lead ushers</i> |
| Steve Langmo | <i>radio announcer</i> |
| Bob Boldt | <i>cover design</i> |
| | |
| Joyce Anderson, | |
| Leon & Deanne Tibben, | |
| Larry & Zee Gregerson, Shirley Dahl, | |
| Allison Winblad, Barb Hoernemann, | |
| Ann Oyen, Judy Berge, | |
| Rebecca Sundquist, Rick Johnston | <i>communion ministers</i> |
| | |
| Pastor Kristen Jacobson, Judy Berge, | |
| Paul Elavsky, Mark Forsberg, | |
| Karl Starr, Shanti Austvold, | |
| Jeff Gordien, | |
| Brian McKinley & | |
| Kathy Kvammen-McKinley | <i>hosts and greeters</i> |
| Karen Snyder, Pat Forse | <i>docents</i> |
| | |
| Kris Stedje, Christopher Haug, | |
| David Nelson, Michael Wickman, | |
| Paul Troselius, John Troselius, | |
| Stephen Shearer, Karl Starr, | |
| Sara Klomp, Maggie Peterson, | |
| Judith Stone | <i>seasonal environment</i> |
| | |
| Phil & Laura Holst, Trudy Ness, | |
| Mary Jo Olson, Michael Wickman | |
| Richard Stegall, David West | <i>seasonal worship team</i> |

WORSHIP LIFE

*Katharina von Bora Luther,
renewer of the church, 1552*



On December 20 we commemorate the woman who became known as Martin Luther's wife. Katharina von Bora was born to an impoverished noble family January 29, 1499. Her first education was at a Benedictine school. Her mother died, and in 1505 her father remarried. She later entered a convent and at the age of 16 made her final vows.

The convent was close to the border of Saxony, where the abandonment of cloisters had its effect as Luther's teachings penetrated even convent walls. On Easter Day in 1523, 12 nuns managed to escape from the convent. They arrived in Wittenburg the same day. Some returned to their families, some found shelter with friends, some married. Katharina was 24 and had definite ideas about who she would or wouldn't marry. She had no interest in Luther's choice for her, and made it known that only he (Luther) or one other would be acceptable. Martin and Katharina were engaged and married on the same day, June 23, 1525. He was forty-two and she was twenty-six.

With a firm and efficient hand Katharina von Bora Luther managed the enormous household in Wittenberg with its many residents and guests. Martin and Katharina had six children.

Following Martin Luther's death in February 1546, Katharina fled to Dessau and then to Magdeburg. She returned to Wittenburg to find her properties ruined. Plague broke out in Wittenburg in 1552. During the fall of that year she was seriously injured as she traveled to Torgau. She died December 20, 1552 in Torgau, and because of the unsettled conditions in Wittenburg was buried in the Marienkirche in Torgau.



If you wish to donate chancel flowers contact Gloria Hahn ten days in advance at 952-545-6109.



**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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