



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Eucharist

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org

Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org



Welcome to worship at Central Lutheran Church. As you arrive for worship, you are invited to prepare your hearts and minds while listening to the prelude before the service begins today.



The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on this first day of the week.

PRELUDE

“Reverie”

William Grant Still

(At the sound of the bell, please stand and face the font.)

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can overcome.

Blessed are you, O God, our maker. Illumine our way by the light of your Christ.

May your word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation, and we give you thanks, O God, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 673

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glo - ry be to God in the high - est heav'n, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. (organ)
Lord God, al - might - y_ heav'n - ly King, God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we_ give you thanks, we
praise you_ for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Oh, Lord_

Continues on next page...



God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy, mer - cy on us. For you
sit at the Fa-ther's right hand: re-ceive our prayer. *(organ)*
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the
most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.
A - men, a - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we are called to do and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, siblings, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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

PSALM 112:1-9



Choir: ¹ *Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord
and have great delight in | God's commandments!*

All: ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

Choir: ³ *Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.*

All: ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

Choir: ⁵ *It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.*

All: ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing
remembrance.**

Choir: ⁷ *They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.*

All: ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

Choir: ⁹ *They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.*

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



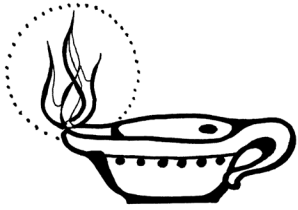
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



Lord, to__whom shall we go? You__ have the



words of e-ter-nal life. Al - le - lu - ia._____



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 715

“Christ, Be Our Light”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

With the light of Christ shining upon us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition concludes:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

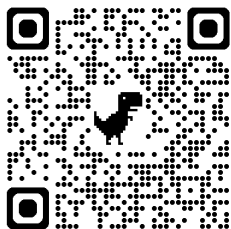
We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that you hear and respond, listen and restore. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)



Scan to make a financial offering.

*Many African American spirituals and hymns were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. On weekends when Central uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, a donation will be made to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) as a reparation to their descendants. For 2026, Central will be sending donations to Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Little Light of Mine”

*African American Spiritual,
arr. John Helgen

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

*Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

Oh, let it shine!

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

Hymn 717

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

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.

It is indeed right...and join in their unending hymn:

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff begins with the word "(Organ)" and contains a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly," are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with another triplet of eighth notes, with lyrics "ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might." The third staff concludes the phrase with a final triplet of eighth notes and the lyrics "Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry." The piece ends with a 2/4 time signature change.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

Blessed are you O Lord our God, creator of life and love...
...All glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As the beloved of God, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

(Please be seated)

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

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.

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Swedish Folk Tune,
arr. James Melby

*Children of the heav'nly Father,
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nesting bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own does tend and nourish;
In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
In his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth,
And their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his child ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.*

- Caroline V. Sandell Berg; Translation Ernst W. Olson

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Hymn 712

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



God blesses us and sends us for shared mission in our shared world.

Sending

BENEDICTION

The God of hope and light fills you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. The God of all grace, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 665

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso e Vivace”
from Sonata No. 2 in C Major

Felix Mendelssohn

Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>hospitality</i>
Allison Eger	<i>assisting</i>
Steven Langmo	<i>reading</i>
Joey Jones	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Central Congregation Council	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Richard and Kelly Wicklund in loving memory of Ralph A. Gilbertsen who died on December 30, 2025.

Also, Chancel flowers have been given by the Weiblen family in loving memory of Paul whose funeral was held here on Saturday, February 7.

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288 or receptionist@centralmpls.org.

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com

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Sanctus and Agnus Dei:

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