



Ash Wednesday

Eucharist

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7 p.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 as the day fades to night.

PRELUDE

“Tierce en Taille”

Jean-Adam Guilain

(At the sound of the bell, please stand)

Gathering

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



All: ¹² Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

Choir: ¹³ Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

All: ¹⁴ Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

Choir: ¹⁵ O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

All: ¹⁶ For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

Choir: ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not
despise.

(Please stand)

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



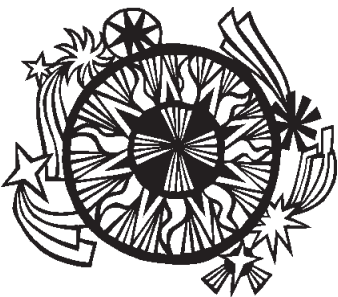
Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

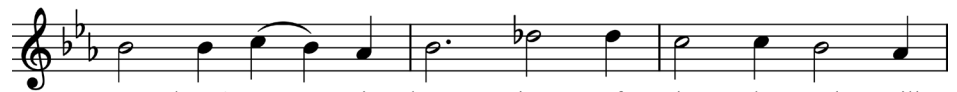
(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Bestows on Every Sense”



1. God be - stows on ev - 'ry sense beau - ty
 2. Catch a fleet - ing glimpse of grace in an
 3. Vi - brant pic - tures in our dreams, brushed with
 4. In a burnt and black - ened field bro - ken
 5. God makes all cre - a - tion new, turn - ing



as hope's ev - i - dence: signs of what the earth will
 un - ex - pect - ed place: just a taste, the small - est
 crys - tal col - or schemes, van - ish from a wak - ing
 ground be - gins to yield ti - ny, frag - ile sprouts of
 back what peo - ple do, build - ing up what we de -



be just be - yond what we _____ can see.
 crumb of the ban - quet yet _____ to come.
 mind, leav - ing just a trace _____ be - hind.
 green: hints of for - ests yet _____ un - seen.
 -stroy sing - ing sor - row in _____ to joy.

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Giving thanks for all the common elements of home, we turn to you, O God, source of all life and hope. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection)



Most 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 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward at your own direction and receive ashes in the sign of the cross.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and vulnerability, reminding us that by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed and given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God, hear us as we seek your healing love for our lives, community and the world.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, who gives all the sustaining common elements of home. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“These Forty Days”

Zollene Reissner

Lord, have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray.

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

We may not know, we cannot tell what pain you had to bear.

But in this holy season, Lord, we would your sorrow share.

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Lord, grant that in our penitence, we may also receive your gift of grace.

Abide with us that when this life of suff’ring shall be past.

An Easter of unending joy we may celebrate at last!

And Lord have mercy upon us, and grant us peace, O Lord.

- Claudia F. Hernaman



Scan to make a financial offering.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Meal

(Please stand)

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.

Creating, Healing and Sustaining God, you provide a home for all, built around common elements...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.

**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.*



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

“Steal Away”

*African American Spiritual,
arr. Harry T. Burleigh

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 599

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“O World, I Must Now Leave Thee,”
from *Eleven Chorale Preludes*, Op. 122

Setting, Johannes Brahms

Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>assisting/reading</i>
Pastor Brian Gutzmann	
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

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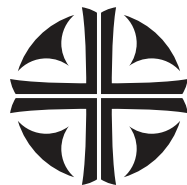
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Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

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