



## First Sunday in Lent

*Eucharist*

Sunday, February 22, 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](http://www.elca.org)

Align Minneapolis | [www.alignmpls.org](http://www.alignmpls.org)

ReconcilingWorks | [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://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

“Prelude to the Kyrie,” from *Hommage to Frescobaldi* Jean Langlais

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

## Gathering

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Remembering our baptism, we begin in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 320

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

### 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

### CHORAL KYRIE

“Mass in E Flat”

Josef Rheinberger

*Sung in Greek:*

Translation:

*Kyrie Eleison;*

Lord, have mercy;

*Christe Eleison;*

Christ, have mercy;

*Kyrie Eleison*

Lord, have mercy

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



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

## Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### PSALM 36:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup>**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like  
the great deep;  
you save humankind and animals, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>How priceless is your love, O God!  
All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup>**They feast upon the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

<sup>9</sup>For with you is the well of life,  
and in your light we see light.

<sup>10</sup>**Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

*(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 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. <sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples, and they remained there a few days.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es

all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
fruit - less ef - ferts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945  
Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947  
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## 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

“Veni Sancte Spiritus”

Marques Garrett

*Sung in Latin:*

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus,  
et emitte caelitus  
lucis tuae radium.*

*In labore requies,  
in aestu temperies,  
in fletu solatium.*

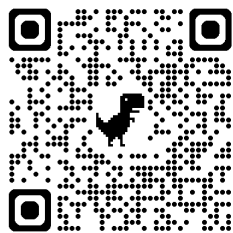
*O lux beatissima,  
reple cordis intima  
tuorum fidelium.*

Translation:

Come, Holy Spirit,  
and send out from heaven  
the ray of your light.

In labor, rest,  
in heat, temperateness,  
in tears, solace.

O most blessed light,  
fill the inmost heart  
of your faithful.



*Scan to make a  
financial offering.*



*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

# Meal

*(Please stand)*

## PRESENTATION HYMN

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”  
*Stanzas 1 and Lent 1*

1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 rise with ev - 'ry morn.

*Lent 1*  
 From the dawning of creation  
 you have loved us as your own;  
 stay with us through all temptation,  
 make us turn to you alone.

## 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

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

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*(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.*

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Charles H. Gabriel,  
arr. Zanaida Robles

*Let not your heart be troubled.  
His tender word I hear;  
And resting on His goodness,  
I lose my doubt and fear.  
Though by the path He leads me,  
Though one thing I may see,  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.  
Why should I feel discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?*

*Why should my heart feel lonely  
and long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion?  
A constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy—  
I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.*

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

\*African American Spiritual,  
arr. Dan R. Edwards

*(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 326

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

## Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>hospitality</i>
Pat Hansen	<i>assisting</i>
Jim Hart	<i>reading</i>
Shirley Dahl	<i>crucifer</i>
Bell Choir	<i>ensembles</i>
Iowa State Singers	
Dr. James Rodde	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist/bell choir director</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Jim Hart	<i>host</i>

*Thanks to:*  
Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

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