



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Eucharist*

Sunday, March 15, 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)

MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | [www.mnipl.org](http://www.mnipl.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

Chorale Prelude on “We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

Setting, C. Hubert H. Parry

*(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

“Be Thou My Vision”

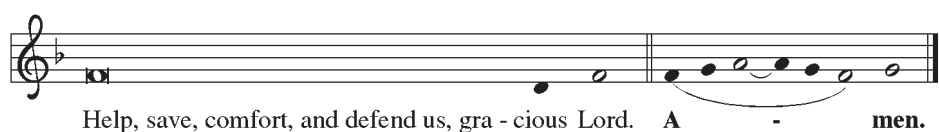
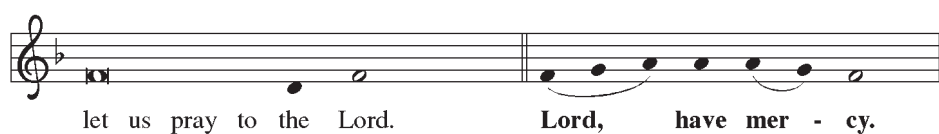
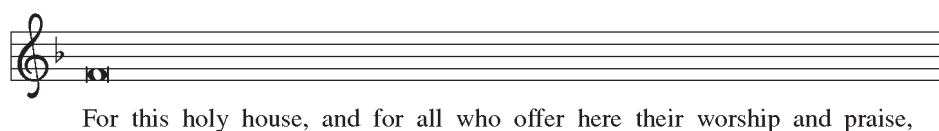
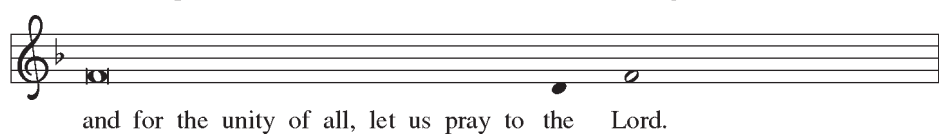
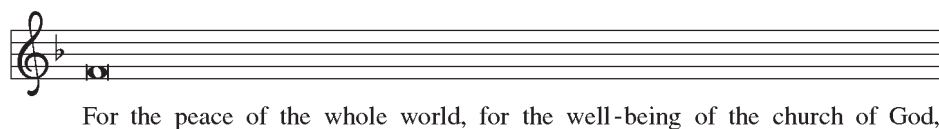
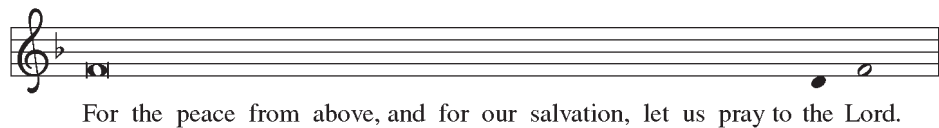
Hymn 793

### 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.**

## KYRIE



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, open our eyes to see with both physical and spiritual sight. Anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*



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

## Word

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### PSALM 23

“The Lord is My Shepherd,” from *Requiem*

John Rutter

*The lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.*

*He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*

*He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, For his Name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;*

*For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.*

*Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:*

*Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.*

*But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

*(Please stand)*

#### LENTEN ACCLAMATION



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

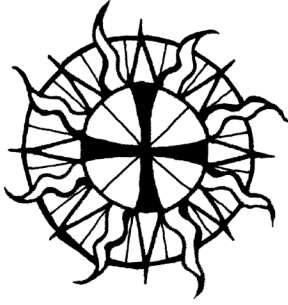


mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



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

*(Please be seated)*



The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> The religious authorities did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the religious authorities, for the authorities had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for

this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

#### SERMON

*(Please stand)*

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 617

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

#### 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.

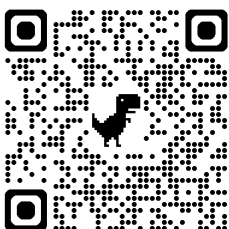
**And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

“Make Me Pure, O Sacred Spirit”

Georg Philipp Telemann



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 4*

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 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
 make us children of your light.  
 Give us hearts to live more nearly  
 as your gospel shining bright.

### 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.

“Ave Verum Corpus”

William Byrd

*Sung in Latin:  
Ave verum corpus,  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine  
cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.*

*O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,  
O Iesu, fili Mariae.  
Miserere mei. Amen*

Translation:  
Hail, true Body,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the cross for humanity,  
from whose pierced side  
water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a sweet foretaste  
in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
O Jesus, son of Mary,  
have mercy on me. Amen.

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Hymn 779

*(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.**



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

## 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 768

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*Sonata No. 2, Movement I. Lebhaft*

Paul Hindemith

# Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presider</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>hospitality</i>
Jeff Block	<i>assisting</i>
Jack Friesen	<i>crucifer</i>
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>
Marie Wiegert	<i>host</i>

*Thanks to:*

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry Teams.

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*Music: Marty Haugen*

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