



## Fourth Sunday in Easter

*Eucharist*

Sunday, April 26, 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)

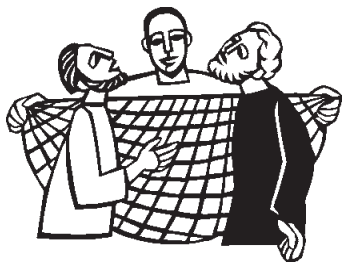
Align Minneapolis | [www.alignmpls.org](http://www.alignmpls.org)

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

“Shepherd’s Prayer”

Oskar Lindberg

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

## Gathering

### OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Break down barriers that divide us.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

### GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 807

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

### 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

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first three staves contain the main body of the hymn, and the last two staves contain a refrain. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first refrain is marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your home, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

# Word

## CHILDREN'S TIME



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

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

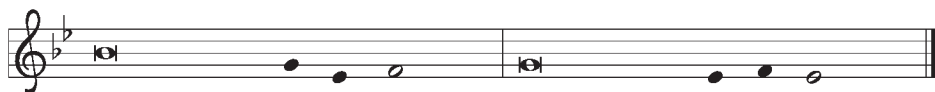
<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23



*Choir:* <sup>1</sup> **The Lord | is my shepherd;**  
*I shall not | be in want.*

**All:** <sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**  
**and leads me be- | side still waters.**

*Choir:* <sup>3</sup> *You restore my | soul, O Lord,*  
*and guide me along right pathways | for your name's*  
*sake.*

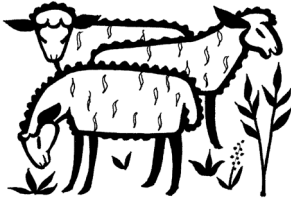
**All:** <sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of**  
**death, I shall | fear no evil;**  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff,**  
**they | comfort me.**

*Choir:* <sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my*  
*enemies;*  
*you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.*

**All:** <sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the**  
**days | of my life,**  
**and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

*(Please stand)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 764

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all.

*Each petition concludes:*

God in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Howard Goodall

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil: For you are with me, you will comfort me.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

*-Psalm 23*



*Scan to make a  
financial offering.*

*Howard Goodall's setting  
of Psalm 23 is the theme  
song to the BBC sitcom  
"The Vicar of Dibley."*



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

## Meal

*(Please stand)*

PRESENTATION HYMN  
"O Blessed Spring"

Hymn 447  
*Stanzas 1 and 3*

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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

As Easter people, at home in God's new life, we pray together the prayer Jesus taught:

**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.**

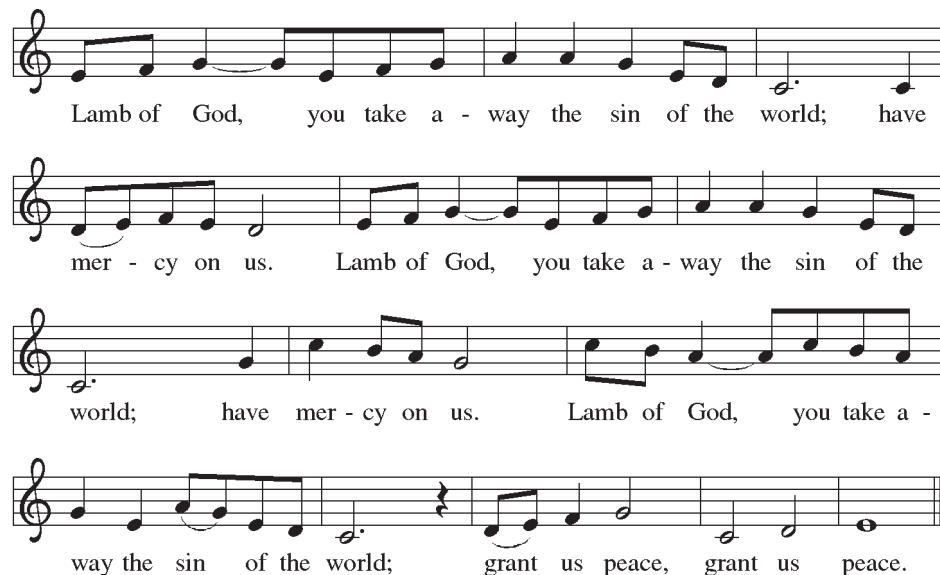
All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

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

*(Please be seated)*

## 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.

### “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Arr. David Cherwien

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and  
watching,  
watching for you and for me.*

*Come home, come home;  
you who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!*

*O for the wonderful love he has  
promised,*

*promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has  
mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is  
pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not  
his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?*

- Will L. Thompson

### “Day by Day”

Hymn 790

*(Please stand)*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is alive! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

# Serving Today

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor Brian Gutzmann    | <i>preacher</i>          |
| Pastor Melissa Pohlman   | <i>presider</i>          |
| Pastor Stephanie Friesen | <i>hospitality</i>       |
| Sam Friesen              | <i>assisting/reading</i> |
| Michael Acuña Dee        | <i>crucifer</i>          |
| Central Choir            | <i>ensemble</i>          |
| Joe Osowski              | <i>choir director</i>    |
| David Cherwien           | <i>organist</i>          |
| Mark Kieffer             | <i>video/sound</i>       |
| Nancy Carlson            | <i>host</i>              |

*Thanks to:*

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality, and Décor Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers are given by the Knox family  
in memory of Reginald and Charles Jr.

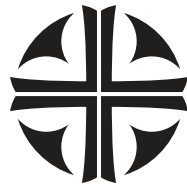
If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi  
at 612-788-1288 or [receptionist@centralmpls.org](mailto:receptionist@centralmpls.org).

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