



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Eucharist

Sunday, September 20, 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

MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org



Welcome to Worship

*As you arrive for worship,
you are invited to prepare
your hearts and minds while
listening to the prelude before
the service begins today.*

Prelude

*Both pieces for today's prelude
are based on the tune we will
sing at the Hymn of the Day.
This tune is most commonly
sung to the Christmas text "O
Little Town of Bethlehem."
However, several different texts
use this tune in the ELW.*



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

PRELUDE

Two settings of the tune "Forest Green"

- I. From *Ten Chorale Improvisations*, set 7
- II. Pastorale

Paul Manz
Richard Purvis

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

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

You have been forgiven all your sin.

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,

but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Lord of Light"

Hymn 688

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

All sing parts marked **C**

Choir sings parts marked **I** and **II**

Hymn of Praise

Today's Hymn of Praise is taken from setting 2 of the hymnal *This Far By Faith*. Published in 1999, *This Far by Faith* was developed jointly by the ELCA and LC-MS as a resource for African American music in the Lutheran Church. The gloria, as well as the rest of setting 2, was composed by Rev. Dr. James M. Capers (1948-2025). Pastor Capers was nurtured in the traditions of the Missionary Baptist, African Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance churches. He completed his Bachelor of Music from Manhattan School of music and then attended seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Throughout his ministry, he has served churches of the Lutheran Church in America (one of the predecessors to the ELCA) and the ELCA.

C Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to his peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

C Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to his peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

II Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right
hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

C Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to his peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,

A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We turn our hearts to God. God of miracles and of mercy, all creation sings your praise. Like the vineyard owner, your grace is extravagant and unexpected. Lead us to repentance and the acceptance of your grace, that we may witness to your love, which embraces both those we call friend and those we call stranger. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)



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

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

READING RESPONSE

“God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

Verses 1 and 2



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
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GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 695

“As Saints of Old”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scan to make a financial offering.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PEACE

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

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“I Would Be True”

Undine Smith Moore

*I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare!*

*I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up and laugh and love and lift!*

-Howard A. Walter

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Hymn 461
Stanzas 1-2

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are steadfast, you alone are merciful...
...Yours, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom,
the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As the beloved of God, let us 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)

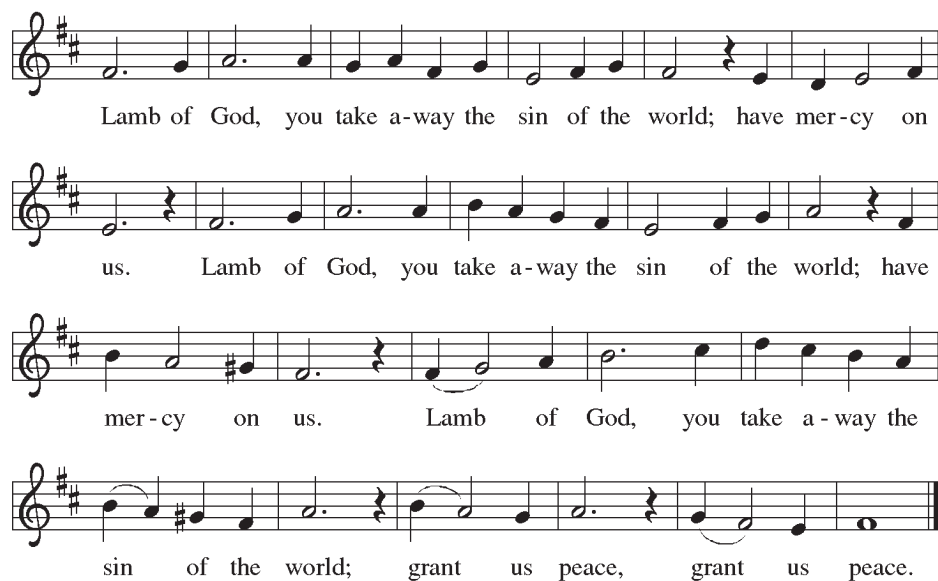
Communion

*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.

“Ave Verum Corpus”

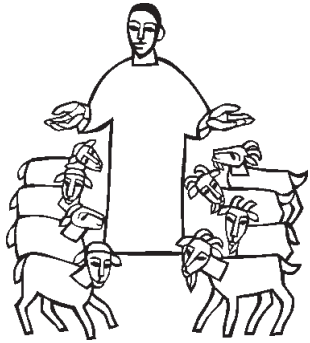
Sung in Latin:
Ave verum corpus, natum
de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine
cujus latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

Hymn 659



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

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending

BENEDICTION

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace
✙ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 765

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is faithful.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Grand Plein Jeu” from *Suite du
Premier Ton*

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

Serving Today

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>preaching</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>hospitality</i>
Zee Gregerson	<i>assisting</i>
Dick Shinofield	<i>reading</i>
Shirley Dahl	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Leif Olsen	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Marie Wiegert	<i>healing prayers</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, and Hospitality Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Cathy Fuller in celebration of the marriage of her daughter Marit Elizabeth Fuller to Patrick Ryan Erredge on September 19, 2026.

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

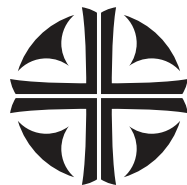
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*Eucharistic Prayer: Adapted from the Service of Installation for Bishop Lisa Lewton,
Western North Dakota Synod, August 28, 2026.*



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

Central Lutheran
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(612) 870-4416 | info@centralmpls.org