



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Eucharist

Sunday, October 18, 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.*



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

PRELUDE

Meditation on “Brother James’ Air”

Harold Darke

(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

“You Servants of God”

Hymn 825

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

Assisting minister



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

All



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.



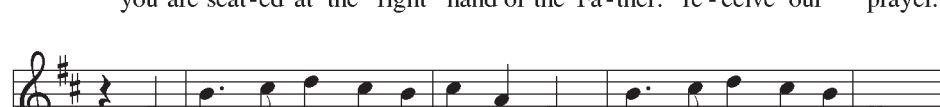
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



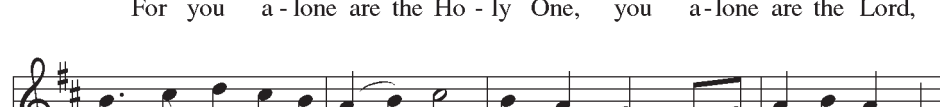
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



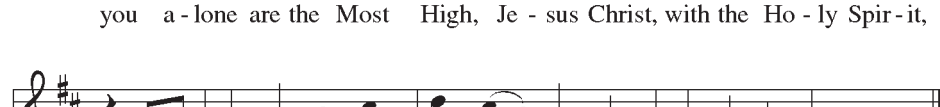
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You know each of us by name, O God, and in your sight we have found favor, yet our minds cannot comprehend the vision of your glory or the vastness of your love. Grant that as we glimpse your greatness, reflected in your many gifts, we may always return to you the praise that is yours alone. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME



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

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in
our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your
work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord
Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, siblings beloved by God, that he has chosen
you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just
as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your
sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so
that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in
Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not
only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has
become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they
report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you
turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for
God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead—Jesus, who
rescues us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL HYMN

Hymn 686

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”



GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 808

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

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.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)



Scan to make a financial offering.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“O For a Closer Walk with God ”

Charles Villiers Stanford

*O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!*

*Return, O holy dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.*

*So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.*

-William Cowper

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“Oh, What Shall I Render”

1 Oh, what shall I ren - der in thanks to my Lord
2 My hands take the cup of sal - va - tion you give;

for all the good gifts by which I am re - stored?
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.

No trea - sure I ten - der could ev - er re - pay
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,

God's mer - cy and faith - ful - ness, new ev - 'ry day.
with all of your peo - ple your good - ness pro - claim.

Text: Martin A. Seltz, based on Ps. 116
Music: FOUNDATION, early North American

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

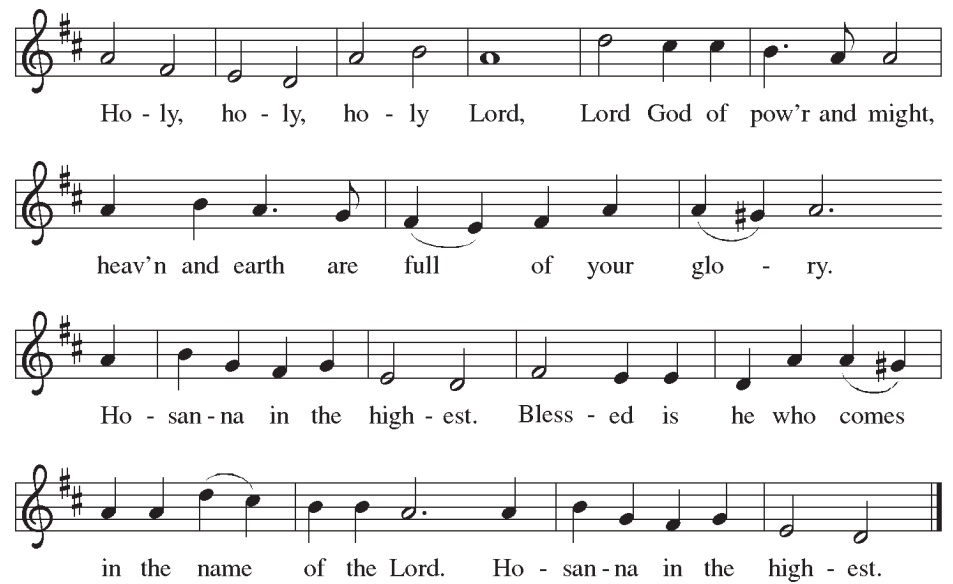
Lift up your hearts.

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)

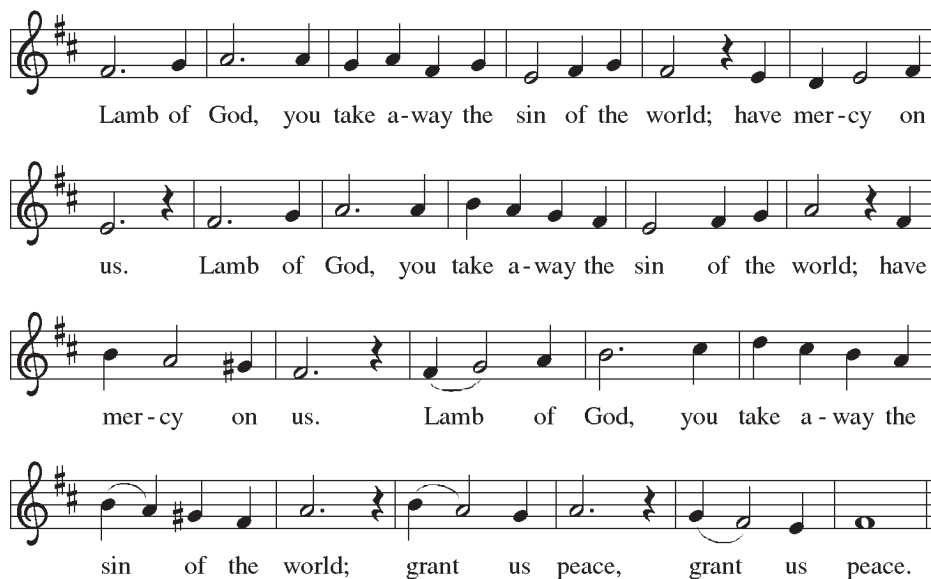
Communion

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.

“The Lord Bless and Keep You”

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

-Numbers 6:24-26

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

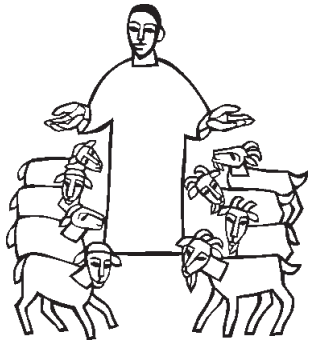
Hymn 778

(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.**



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

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 878

“Soli Deo Gloria”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is faithful.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Carillon de Westminster”

Louis Vierne

Serving Today

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preaching</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>presiding</i>
Tom Allen	<i>assisting</i>
Loren Sass	<i>reading</i>
Karl Evert	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Melanie Ohnstad	<i>organist</i>
Leif Olsen	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Marie Wiegert	<i>healing prayers</i>
Bonnie Weisenburger	

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, and Hospitality Ministry Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Cenral Lutheran Church.

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

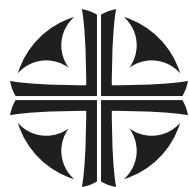
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*Eucharistic Prayer: Adapted from the Service of Installation for Bishop Lisa Lewton,
Western North Dakota Synod, August 28, 2026.*



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

Central Lutheran
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

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