

# Sunday, August 10, 2025

# 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

# Central Lutheran Church: Called to Share God's Love.

We're glad you are here! Help us welcome you by signing a Welcome to Worship pad.

Please give the name of each person attending worship, including children.

Visitors, may we have your complete address?

Children 5 years and under are welcome in our worship services or in the nursery in room 4.

arr. Marilynn Ham

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

You may face the baptismal font as the service begins. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of † Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.** 

# Atar flowers are available to be sponsored.

The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org. You are invited to make your contribution during a hymn or the passing of the peace. The offering plate will be delivered to the altar at the offertory time. Thank you.

Thank you to our worship leaders today:

Worship leader: Rev. Susan Halvor
Musician: Debbie Pankow
Assisting Minister: David Braun
Lector: volunteer

A/V Wrangler: volunteer Projectionist: volunteer

#### **OPENING HYMN ELW # 557**

# "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"



#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

#### KYRIE ELW SETTING THREE

ELW pp. 138-39

- In peace, let us pray to the Lord. 
   Lord, have mercy.
- ☐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- □ Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. 
   □ Lord, have mercy.
- ☐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. ☐ Amen.

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW SETTING THREE

ELW pp. 140-41

- A Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. refrain
- Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. refrain
- □ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. refrain
- □ For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. refrain

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

#### WORD

# FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

be my heir." 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said. "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the LORD, and the offspring, so a slave born in my house is to LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

#### PSALM 33:12-22



<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

13 The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly en- <sup>1</sup> throned and watches || all who dwell <sup>1</sup> on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>God fashions <sup>|</sup> all their hearts ∥ and observes <sup>|</sup> all their deeds.

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size <sup>| "</sup>of the army, ||

nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>7</sup>The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear <sup>Γ</sup>yöu, O LORD, ∥ upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> to deliver their lives from death, ∥ and to keep them alive in time of famine.

<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for <sup>|</sup> you, <sup>"</sup>O LORD, || our helper <sup>|</sup> and our shield.

Surely, our heart rejoic- es in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

22 Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

#### Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 SECOND READING

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out. not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he

considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

 ELW p. 142
Please stand.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Heather Helgeson** 

SERMON

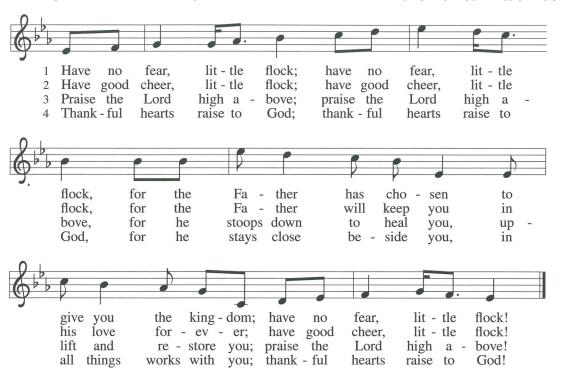
Rev. Susan Halvor

READINGS FOR AUGUST 10

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

#### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 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 INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Each petition ends: God of grace, hear our prayer.

# We Ask Your Prayers for:

Alaska Native Lutheran; Immanuel Korean Presbyterian; Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer; Gary Bergman, Wendy Bergman, Jan Beverlin, Al Boecker, Joe & Lisa Boecker, Lori Boecker, Yvonne Boecker, Harlan & Ella Braun, Erik Bryant, Sigi Bryant, Maria Bulkow, Betsy Cooper, Kathy Earhart, Dixie Foley, Shannon Foley, Rev. Mark Galbraith, Danny Harris, Robin Harris, Skyler Harris, Arlen Hattel, Dianne Hillemeyer, Mark Johnson, Nick Klescewski, Pete Kropidlowski, Dee Lambert, Arne & Norma Mjolsnes, Kurt and Anne Pasch, Marlene Rapp, John Rogers, Judy Schaefer, Kristina Slater, Lynn Soiseth, Lucile Sorenson, Remi Thrasher, Lee & Jackie van Horn, Andrea Vancil, Bob Voris, Eva Wissmann, Bobbi Whitmire, Mark Wohlgemuth, Mary Wolter, Kallen Young, Kariana, Michael, Hope Please pray for the families of those who've died: Roger Bulkow (John's father), David Bjorkquist (Brian's father), Carol Norquist, Kaare Elde

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

#### **MEAL**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### **OFFERING**

The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org. Thank you.

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# **OFFERTORY ELW #721**

# "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"



#### OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand.

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

#### **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.

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### SANCTUS ELW SETTING THREE

ELW p. 144

 □ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Lord gives us a meal and gives us a prayer. We pray together:

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.

# † Invitation to the Meal †

This is not Central's table, not a Lutheran table; this is God's table, and you are all welcome.

Please be seated.

#### COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, whether you are a member or a guest. Today we commune in a walking style. If for any reason you would prefer to receive a blessing in lieu of receiving communion, please hold your hand over your heart. You are invited to take time for prayer at the altar rail after taking communion. Gluten-free wafers are available on the tray at the first pew.

Votive candles are available to light in memory of loved ones in the stand on the left side of the altar. Please use the Oil Candle Lighter. It is the small metal box with two removable metal wands. Each wand has a wick on one end that is kept moist with oil from inside the box. Light the wick end of the wand from an already lit votive candle.

After lighting a new votive candle, blow out the flame on the wand and place it back into the container, which will re-wet the wick with new oil. Please do not let the wick burn for a long time, as it will use up the oil in the wand and the wick will actually start to burn (which we do not want). Please do not pick up the votive candles to light them. Let each worshipper re-light and extinguish the wand at their turn; do not pass the burning wand to another person.

#### LAMB OF GOD ELW SETTING THREE

**ELW p. 146** 

□ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 □ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 □ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 593**

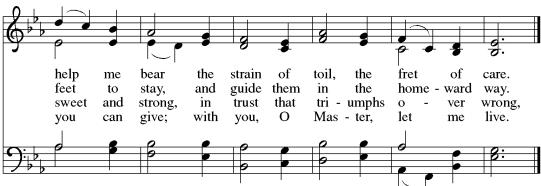
"Drawn to the Light"





### "Oh Master Let Me Walk with You"





Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. Amen.

#### SENDING

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Save the date, we kick off fall with a day of service following our worship on September 7. Projects include our Adopt-A-Road cleanup, a food drive for the LSSA Food Pantry, and toiletry collection and Care Kit bag filling.



### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Called to Share God's Love

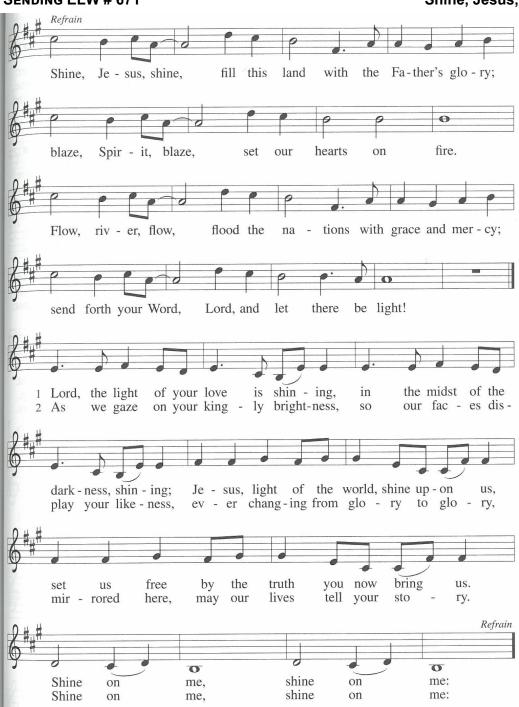
### **CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION**

Living out God's Grace and Love through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service

#### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CORE VALUES

We are a congregation that

- is open to all,
- values a community of all ages,
- is grounded in scripture and sacrament.
- nurtures individual gifts,
- believes that everyone has something to offer,
- values involvement in the greater community,
- supports all in the challenges and celebrations of their lives, as God meets us where we are.



#### **BLESSING**

Please face the baptismal font

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit † bless you and give you peace. **Amen.** 

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** 

"I Stand at the Threshold"

by J. S. Bach

# Worship:

Sundays 9:30 am worship service. Worship will be led by: Today, Rev. Susan Halvor August 17 Deacon Linda Bender August 24 & 31 Rev. Kaila Armbruster

# Study:

**Ladies**, monthly *Gather* Bible study next on Monday, August 11, 2 pm at Church. **Gentlemen**, monthly breakfast & study Saturday, September 6, 9 am at Kava's

# Fellowship:

Central Seniors and friends - **coffee klatsche** every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive.

Join our multi-generational group of **pickleball** players. Tuesday evenings at Central. Text Christi at 646.710.0805 for details. All skill levels welcome.

# Serve:

Year-round, we collect shelf-stable **foods for LSSA Food Pantry**. Our August focus will be lunch box favorites like granola bars, dried fruits and nuts packets, packaged rice Krispie treats, fruit snacks and leather, packaged crackers like goldfish and teddy grahams. . .

# Donations welcomed:

Clean clothes, outdoor gear, SOCKS, shoes & boots, backpacks, blankets & more for Helping Hands Clothing Closet

# News:

Over the next month, Kathy is updating the **Church photo directory**, to ensure we're ready for our next pastor. As you enjoy the rest of summer, consider taking a picture of yourself or your family and emailing it to the Church office.

Our **Anchorage Farmers Market** meets 9 am - 2 pm Saturdays. Central office manager Kathy Freeman is looking for donations of cookies and bars each week, and for smiling faces to volunteer once a month at our hospitality booth.

Save the date, **Carol Norquist** celebration of life and reception at 1 pm Wednesday, September 3

We're looking for our **next custodian**, a part time position that starts at \$16 DOE. Contact the church office to learn more.

Today, last Sunday to donate toward custodian **Rey Nelvis** love offering.

**Choir Director Tai Wai Li** has announced his retirement. Thank you party TBA.

# Sunday 8/10

9:30 am **WORSHIP SERVICE with Rev. Susan Halvor** (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room) 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)

# Monday 8/11

2 pm Women's *Gather* Bible Study (Church office)

5 - 9 pm Anchorage Concert Chorus auditions (Sanctuary)

6:30 - 9:30 pm ANLC Beading (Community Room)

Bible studies & meetings Zoom.us meeting ID 963 8911 9335

Worship online via centluth.org

# Tuesday 8/12

1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)

4:45 - 6:15 pm Pickleball (Fellowship Hall / lower parking lot)

6:30 - 8 pm Kingikmiut (Fellowship Hall)

# Wednesday 8/13

8:30 - 10 am Coffee Klatsch @ Kaladi Bros. on Brayton

2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)

# Thursday 8/14

Noon Finance Committee meeting (Church office) 5:30 - 8:30 pm Nome-Wales Dancing Community (Fellowship Hall) overnight Fuller Center Bike Adventure group (Fellowship Hall)

# Friday 8/15

2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel) overnight Fuller Center Bike Adventure group (Fellowship Hall)

# Saturday 8/16

9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market & our hospitality booth (upper parking lot)

9:30 - 10:30 am WW Meeting (Community Room)

earlier set up, Noon - 3 pm Eddie's AA Monthly Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

11 am - 2 pm Foot & Wound Clinic (Fellowship Hall balcony)

11:30 am - 1:30 pm NAMI (Community Room)

Noon - 2 pm Listening Post (Fellowship Hall balcony)

1 - 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)

overnight Fuller Center Bike Adventure group (Fellowship Hall)

# Sunday 8/17

8 am Church Council meeting (Cordova Room)

9:30 am **WORSHIP SERVICE** with **Deacon Linda Bender** (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org followed by **Special Congregational Meeting** (Sanctuary and zoom.us)

11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)

2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)