

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Holy Cross Day



This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

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.

GATHERING
PRELUDE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. Marilynn Ham Debbie Pankow

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, you we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Atar flowers are given by Birte Eliasen in loving memory of Bruce Eliasen.

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:

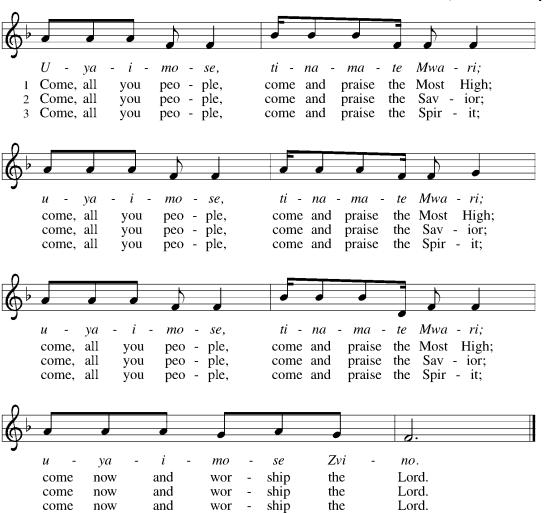
Worship leader: Pastor Zach Manzella

Musician: Debbie Pankow Assisting Minister: Keith Padden Projectionist: volunteer

A/V Wrangler: Heather Helgeson Lector: Thomas Fairchild

OPENING HYMN ELW #819

"Come, All You People"



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.**

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 21

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

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

- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, 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

FIRST READING Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us

up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the

people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses,

"Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-2, 34-38



¹ Hear my teaching, [|] O my people; || incline your ears to the words [|] of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

³⁴Whenever God slew them, ¹ they would seek God, || and repent, and diligently ¹ search for God.

³⁵ They would remember that God | was their rock, | and the Most High God | their redeemer.

³⁶ But they flattered God ^I with their mouths || and lied to God ^I with their tongues.

³⁷ Their heart was not steadfast, and they were not faithful to the covenant.

³⁸ Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did I not destroy them; holding back anger many times and not giving I way to wrath.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,

through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Turn Your Radio On"

by Albert Brumley directed by Kevin Griswold

Come and listen in to a radio station Where the mighty hosts of heaven sing Turn your radio on, turn your radio on, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on;

If you want to hear the songs of Zion Coming from the land of endless spring Get in touch with God, Get in touch with God, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on.

Chorus

Turn your radio on, Turn your radio on and listen to the music in the air, Turn your radio on, Turn your radio on, Heaven's glory share, Heaven's glory share; Turn the lights down low Turn the lights down low and listen to the Master's radio, Get in touch with God Get in touch with God, turn your radio on.

Brother listen into the glory land chorus, Listen to the glad hosannas roll, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on; Get a little taste of joy awaiting, get a little Heaven in your soul, Get in touch with God Get in touch with God, turn your radio on, turn your radio on. Chorus

Listen to the songs of the fathers and mothers And the many friends gone on before, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on, Turn your radio on, turn your radio on;

Some eternal morning we shall meet them Over on the Hallelujah shore, Get in touch with God, Get in touch with God, turn your radio on, turn your radio on. Chorus

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW SETTING THREE

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

ELW p. 142
Please stand.

GOSPEL John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he

gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Zach Manzella

SERMON

Pastor Zach Manzella

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 338

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"



- 1 Be neath the cross of Je sus I long to take my stand;
- 2 Up on the cross of Je sus, my eye at times can see
- 3 I take, O cross, your shad ow for my a bid ing place;



the shad-ow of a might-y rock with in a wea-ry land, the ver-y dy-ing form of one who suf-fered there for me.

I ask no oth-er sun-shine than the sun-shine of his face;



home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way, heart, with tears, two And from my con-trite won - ders I con - fess: con - tent to let the know no gain nor world go by, to loss.



from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur-dens of the day. the . . . won-der of his glo-rious love and my un-wor-thi-ness. my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

We Ask Your Prayers for:

Alaska Native Lutheran; Immanuel Korean Presbyterian; Kingigin Lutheran Church, Wales; 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, Emmels, Dixie Foley, Shannon Foley, 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, 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: the Nathan family, Sara Cummings

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

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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.

OFFERTORY BY BELL CHOIR arr. Kevin McChesney

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus" directed by Debbie Pankow

OFFERING PRAYER Please stand.

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, . . . 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. Pastor Zach Manzella is presiding at Holy Communion today with the permission of the bishop of the Alaska Synod.

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.

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.

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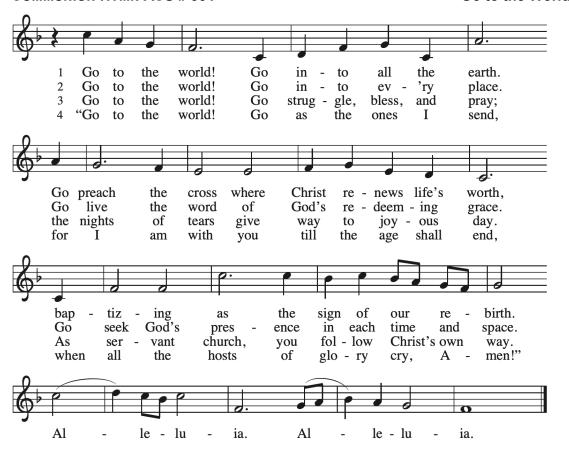
COMMUNION HYMN ELW #335

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"



COMMUNION HYMN ACS # 991

"Go to the World"



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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING ELW #803

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"



BLESSING

Please face the baptismal font

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Pavane" arr. Martin Setchell by Gabriel Fauré, Debbie Pankow

By the grace of God and the Call of the Church Zachary Tey Hughes Manzella



will be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and Installed as Pastor of Central Lutheran Church

4 pm Sunday, October 12, 2025
Central Lutheran Church
1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska
Livestream at centluth.org

Bishop Tim Oslovich, presiding Clergy are invited to vest and process in red



Do you get our weekly **eNews** email? Contact our office to read more details on all the news briefs here.

Worship:

Sundays 9:30 am worship services

Study:

Ladies, monthly *Gather* Bible study meets next on September 15, 3 pm at Church

Gentlemen, monthly breakfast & study Saturday, October 4, 9 am at Kava's

Weekly Noon lectionary text study meets Noon Tuesdays - we'll have the coffee.

The **Early Risers Study** is 7 am Tuesdays via Zoom.us, reading <u>A Prayer for the Crown-Shy</u> by Becky Chambers.

Confirmation class resumes in October.

Adult education class will meets Sundays at 11 am to study Exodus

Multi-generational Sunday School is an ALL AGES monthly potluck dinner on third Sundays at 4:30 pm - September 21 we look at the Creation story.

Fellowship:

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

Join our all ages & skill level **pickleball** players. Tuesday evenings at Central.

Book Group will gather at 4:30 pm on Monday, September 15 to discuss <u>Women in White Coats</u> by Olivia Campbell.

LSSA Golden Connections invites seniors to RSVP at www.lssalaska.org/gc or 907-272-0643 and attend Wednesday, September 17, "Story-telling workshop and lunch" 11:30 am at St. Mark Lutheran.

Serve:

Our **Anchorage Farmers Market** meets 9 am - 2 pm Saturdays. Four weeks left — can YOU bring treats or smiles?

Donations welcomed:

Year-round, we collect shelf-stable **foods for LSSA Food Pantry**. Our September focus will be canned meats and beans.

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

Our **Little Free Library** always welcomes books, magazines and more.

News:

In Our Backyard Rhubarb Fest is TODAY

Installation of ELCA Presiding Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry live stream in our Sanctuary, Saturday, October 4, 11 am

Pet Blessing Saturday, October 4, 11 am - 2 pm, near our playground. Drop in with leashed pets or a photo of them

Our **Local Organizing Ministry** will be calling many of us for one-to-one conversations on quality of life issues regarding the church, the neighborhood, and the greater community.

Sunday 9/14

- 9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Pastor Zach Manzella (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org
- 11 am **Adult Ed class** (Sanctuary)
- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)

Monday 9/15

Russian tutoring meets Monday - Saturday in rooms 3 - 4, varied hours

- 3 pm Women's *Gather* Bible Study (Church office)
- 4:30 pm Book Group discusses Women in White Coats by Olivia Campbell
- 5 7 pm Shoshin Ryu Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 9 pm Anchorage Concert Chorus (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 9:30 pm ANLC Beading (Community Room or Rooms 5-6)

Tuesday 9/16

7 am Early Risers Study of A Prayer for the Crown Shy via zoom.us

Noon - 1 pm Noon Lectionary Text Study (Cordova Room)

- 1 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)
- 2 pm Lutheran Women's Advent Brunch planning (Cordova Room)
- 3 4 pm Local Organizing Ministry / AFACT (Cordova Room)
- 4:45 6:15 pm Pickleball (Fellowship Hall / lower parking lot)

Wednesday 9/17

- 8:30 10 am Coffee Klatsch @ Kaladi Bros. on Brayton
- 11:30 am LSSA Golden Connections "Story-telling workshop & lunch" @ St Mark Lutheran Noon Staff Meeting (Church office)
- 2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)
- 5 7 pm Shoshin Ryu Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsals new folks welcome! (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm Chancel Choir rehearsals new folks welcome! (Sanctuary)

Thursday 9/18

- 10 am 1 pm Log Cabin Quilters (Fellowship Hall)
- 1 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)
- 5:30 8:30 pm Nome-Wales Dancing Community (Fellowship Hall)
- 6 9 pm Holy Karaoke (Small Chapel)

Friday 9/19

2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)

Saturday 9/20

- 9 am 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market & our hospitality booth (upper parking lot)
- 9:30 10:30 am WW Meeting (Community Room)
- (early 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)

Sunday 9/21

- 9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Pastor Zach Manzella (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org
- 11 am **Adult Ed class** (Sanctuary)
- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 pm Multi-generational Sunday School Potluck (Fellowship Hall)

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

Worship online via centluth.org