

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 26, 2025
Praise Worship
Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM, Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *HALLELUJAH ANYWAY*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.
(silence for reflection)

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for acting with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE: *THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: NEHEMIAH 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: I CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **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.**

SONG OF THE DAY: GOD SO LOVED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (after each petition...)

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Meal

OFFERING: SOMEBODY LIKE ME

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.

Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. (9:00) Please come to the table by the diagonal aisle and return to your seat by the center or a front aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the wafer in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available at the front of the center aisle. (10:30) Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the bread in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: PRAISE

SENDING

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Steve Lubbers
Praise Team: Gabe Ferraiuolo, Carlin Heimann, Craig Hoerig,
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Thom Reitz, Scott Watamaniuk
A/V: Spencer Watamaniuk, Lori Embry
Ushers: Ryan Helbach, Troy Stoller
Communion: Cindy & Rich Drabenstott, Lori & Mason Watamaniuk

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Heidi Johns
Assisting Minister: Mike Wipperman
Praise Team: Gabe Ferraiuolo, Carlin Heimann, Craig Hoerig,
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Thom Reitz, Scott Watamaniuk
A/V: Spencer Watamaniuk, Billy Heaning
Usher: Lindsay Wipperman
Communion: The Manning Family
Acolyte: Troy Wipperman

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