

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025

Praise Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM, Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *THE FATHER'S HOUSE*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT: *TETÉLESTAI*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(silence for reflection)

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE: *YOUR LOVE AWAKENS ME*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reconciling 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: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *GOOD GOOD FATHER*

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M e a l

OFFERING: *YOU HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER*

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, 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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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: *THERE WAS JESUS*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *SING SING SING*

SENDING

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister:	Linda Beckman
Praise Team:	Rich Embry, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Al Grodrian, Jake Groom, Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Scott Watamaniuk
Sound:	Spencer Watamaniuk
Ushers:	Jim & Sue Ehrensberger
Communion:	Mary Downs, Cindy & Rich Drabenstott, Lori Embry

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister:	Billy Heaning
Praise Team:	Rich Embry, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Al Grodrian, Jake Groom, Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Scott Watamaniuk
A/V:	Spencer Watamaniuk, Gia Pinto
Stream Team:	Landon Henderson, Ryan Pearson
Usher:	Stephanie Fulton
Communion:	The Manning Family

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