EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 2025

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

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN: GATHER US IN (vv. 1-3)

#532

the dark - ness

who



- Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is we are the old
- We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry,
- Here we will take wine and the wa - ter, the
- here we will take the 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en.



van - ished a - way; yearn for your face; bread of new birth, light years a - way—

see in this space our fears and our dream-ings we have been sung through - out all his - t'ry, of here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters, here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



called be light to the whole hu - man race. to earth. call us a - new to be salt for the the king - dom, and the day. now is now is



Gath-er in, the lost and for - sak - en, us Gath-er the rich and the haugh-ty, us in, Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er,

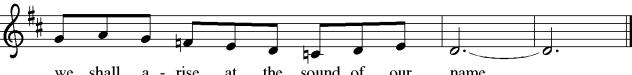
gath-er the us in, the gath-er us in, give us eat the to gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; proud and the strong; bread that is you; make us your own;

call to and us now, give us a heart, SO nour-ish and us well, gath - er in, all us

we shall a - wak - en, meek and so low - ly, teach us to fash-ion peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise the sound of at our name. give us en - ter the the cour - age to song. lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. fire . . of love our flesh and our bone. in

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: PROVERBS 25:6-7

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble

A: The word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 112

A: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord;

C: happy are they who have great delight in God's commandments!

A: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

C: the generation of the upright will be blessed.

A: Wealth and riches will be in their house,

C: their righteousness will last forever.

A: Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

C: the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

A: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

C: The righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

A: Their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

C: Their heart is established and will not shrink.

A: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever:

C: they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 13:1-8,15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

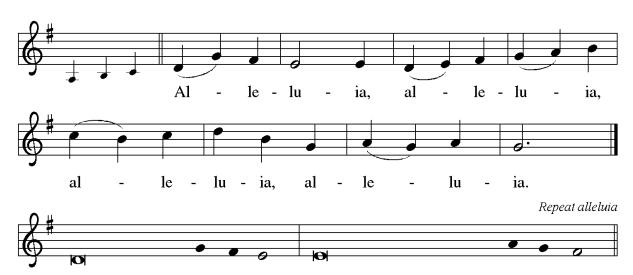
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW /



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 14:1,7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

#880



Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text @ 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,C: hear our prayer.

Meal

OFFERING:

(9:00) THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION (arr. Tincher & Rogers)

Sarah Juhasz, handbells, John Benjamin, piano

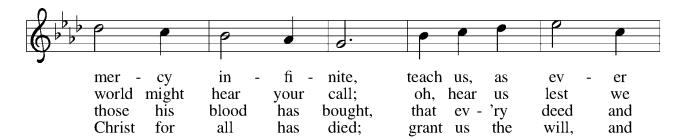
(10:30) LAUDAMUS TE from GLORIA (Antonio Vivaldi)

Pr. Julie Reuning-Scherer & Linda June Snyder

OFFERTORY: O GOD OF MERCY (v. 1,4)

#714





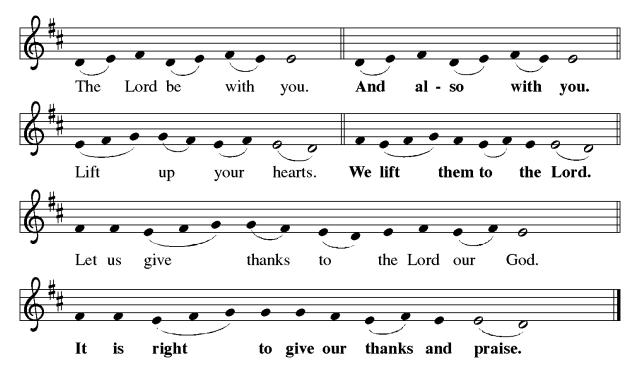


- 5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, may we each other's burdens share; may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.
- 6 And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love, till you receive in heav'n above all those who live in you.

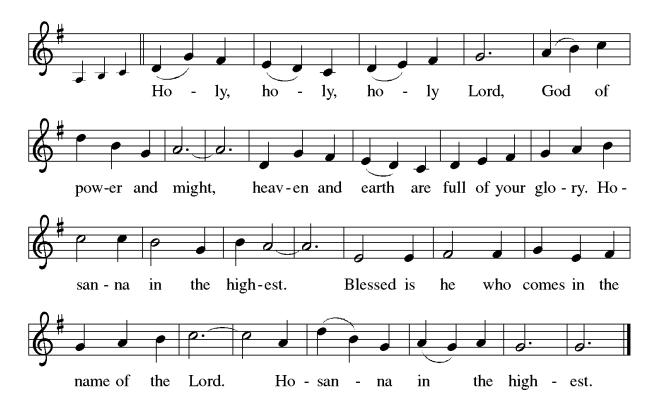
Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW /



SANCTUS: ELW 1



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 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. (10:30) 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.

COMMUNION HYMN: IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU

#769





hand through all your ways, an - ger and dis - tress? qui - et - ness con - tent. ser - vice faith - ful - ly. you'll find that God is there be-If you are in your Sav-ior's We rest in God's good will un-Trust heav-en's word; though un - de-





God's un - chang - ing love; build on rock that the will not move. for you cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss. took a knows ver - y cho - sen us by grace, well the fears we face. con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION



- 1 Lord, dis miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion for your gos pel's joy ful sound.
- 3 Sav ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound. let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful May we ev - er, may we ev - er trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness. to your truth may we be found. reign with you in end-less day.

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Bob Bresemann

Pianist: John Benjamin Lay Reader: Marcia Drake

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer

Assisting Minister: Paul Gresham Organist/Cantor: John Benjamin Ed Wasser

Ushers: Adam Armstrong, David Huber

Communion: Debbie Gresham, Ann Painter, Sam Richard

