

**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Holy Cross Day, September 14, 2025**

Praise Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM, Austin Campus 10:30 AM\* (\*Livestreamed)

Gather

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**GATHERING SONG: *GREAT THINGS***

Come let us worship our King  
Come let us bow at his feet  
He has done great things

See what our Savior has done  
See how his love overcomes  
He has done great things  
He has done great things

**Chorus:** Oh hero of Heaven you conquer the grave  
You free every captive and break every chain  
Oh God you have done great things

We dance in your freedom, awake and alive  
Oh Jesus our Savior, your name lifted high  
Oh God you have done great things

You've been faithful through every storm  
You'll be faithful forevermore  
You have done great things

And I know you will do it again  
For your promise is "Yes and Amen"  
You will do great things  
God you do great things (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Hallelujah God above it all, Hallelujah God unshakable  
Hallelujah you have done great things (*Repeat*)

You've done great things (*Chorus*)

You have done great things, oh God you do great things

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful and loving God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: 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.

### SHARING THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

### SONG OF PRAISE: *THE FATHER'S HOUSE*

Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes  
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for your strength  
And my story isn't over, my story's just begun  
And failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does  
Yeah failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does

**Chorus:** Lay your burdens down here in the Father's house  
Check your shame at the door 'cause it ain't welcome anymore  
You're in the Father's house

Arrival's not the endgame, the journey's where you are  
You never wanted perfect, you just wanted my heart  
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good  
And failure's never final when the Father's in the room  
And failure's never final when the Father's in the room (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Prodigals come home, the helpless find hope  
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room  
Prison doors fling wide, the dead come to life  
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room  
  
Miracles take place, the cynical find faith  
And love is breaking through when the Father's in the room  
Jericho walls are quaking, strongholds now are shaking  
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room  
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room  
(Chorus 2X)

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## **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

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## **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9**

*[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] <sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.”*

<sup>9</sup> 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.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: I CORINTHIANS 1:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**(9:00) GOSPEL READING: LUKE 15:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

**(10:30) GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3:13-17**

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

<sup>16</sup> “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.

<sup>17</sup> “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.”

## **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: *KING OF KINGS*

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven you came running  
There was mercy in your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
to a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory  
to a cradle in the dirt

**Chorus:** Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming  
and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
you did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
you saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died (*Chorus*)

And the morning that you rose  
all of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
for the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
to the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
shall not kneel, shall not faint

By his blood and in his name  
In his freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
who has resurrected me (*Chorus*)

Praise forever to the King of Kings

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

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

M e a l

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## **OFFERING:** *RESCUER*

**Chorus:** He's our Rescuer, he's our Rescuer  
We are free from sin forevermore  
Oh how sweet the sound, oh how grace abounds  
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

There is good news for the captive, good news for the shamed  
There is good news for the one who walked away  
There is good news for the doubter, the one religion failed  
For the good Lord has come to seek and save (*Chorus*)

He is beauty for the blind man, riches for the poor  
He is friendship for the one the world ignores  
He is pasture for the weary, rest for those who strive  
Oh the good Lord is the way the truth the life  
Yes the good Lord is the way the truth the life (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** So come and be chainless, come and be fearless  
Come to the foot of Calvary  
There is redemption for every affliction  
Here at the foot of Calvary (*Repeat*) (*Chorus*)

We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

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## **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; 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:

**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: COME TO THE TABLE

We all start on the outside, the outside looking in  
This is where grace begins  
We were hungry, we were thirsty with nothing left to give  
Oh the shape that we were in

Just when all hope seemed lost  
Love opened the door for us

**Chorus:** Come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior  
Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

Come meet this motley crew of misfits, these liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
That sin and shame that you've brought with you, you can leave it at the door  
And let mercy draw you near (*Chorus*)

Come to the table

**Bridge:** To the thief and to the doubter  
To the hero and the coward  
To the prisoner and the soldier  
To the young and to the older

All who hunger, all who thirst  
All the last and all the first  
All the paupers and the princes  
All who've failed, you've been forgiven

All who dream and all who suffer  
All who've loved and lost another  
All the chained and all the free  
All who follow, all who lead

Anyone who's been let down  
All the lost, you have been found  
All who've been labeled right or wrong  
To ev'ryone who hears this song (*Chorus*)

Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

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## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Send

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### **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING SONG: *THIS IS AMAZING GRACE***

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

**Chorus:** This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love  
That you would take my place, that you would bear my cross  
You laid down your life that I would be set free  
Jesus I sing for all that you've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave (*Sing 3X*)  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy (*Chorus*)

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## **SENDING**

**A:** Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Serving in Worship

#### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister:	Becky Zink
Praise Team:	Doug Day, Sara Donaghue, Mary Miller, Bill Norman, Cat Sorensen, Scott Watamaniuk
Sound:	Alan Cruz
Ushers:	Beth Fischer, Angi Moots
Communion:	John & Lisa Dietrich, Lori & Nolan Watamaniuk

## Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield  
Assisting Minister: Mike Wipperman  
Praise Team: Doug Day, Sara Donaghue, Mary Miller, Bill Norman,  
Cat Sorensen, Scott Watamaniuk  
A/V: Alan Cruz, Billy Heaning  
Stream Team: Landon Henderson, Ryan Pearson  
Ushers: Bob & Kris Mangan  
Communion: Brad & Dean Donaghue, Diana & Reid Pearson  
Don Greiman, bass trombone  
Lucas Hung, timpani  
A/V: Ed Wasser  
Ushers: Ron Armstrong, John Venis  
Communion: Noel Greimann, Debbie Hauberg, RoseAnn Venis