

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 2025

Traditional Worship

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

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT: PANTRY

PRELUDE: *THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION* (arr. Phyllis Tincher & Sean Rogers)

Sarah Juhasz, handbell solo

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.

OPENING HYMN: AS SAINTS OF OLD

#695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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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

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: AMOS 8:4-7

⁴ *Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,*
⁵ *saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,*
and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ *buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals*
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ *The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:*
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 113

A: Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;

C: praise the name of the Lord.

A: Let the name of the Lord be blessed from this time forth forevermore.

C: From the rising of the sun to its going down,
let the name of the Lord be praised.

A: The Lord is high above all nations;

C: God’s glory above the heavens.

A: Who is like the Lord our God?

C: The Lord sits enthroned on high,
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth.

A: The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes;

C: the Lord enthrones them with the rulers of the people.

A: The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.

C: Hallelujah!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: NFC



P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY* (vv. 1,2,4) #588



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

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: *HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING* (arr. Jeffrey Honore)

Epiphany Chorale

OFFERTORY: AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

#465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

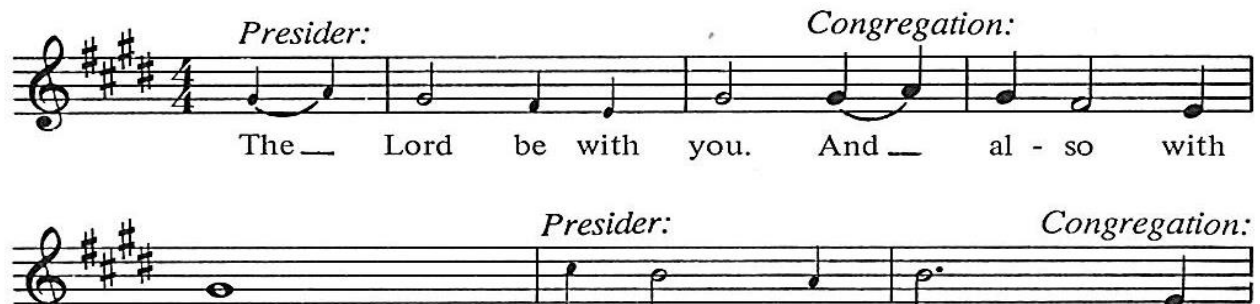
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OFFERING PRAYER


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: NFC

Presider: *Congregation:*




The Lord be with you. And al - so with
you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider:

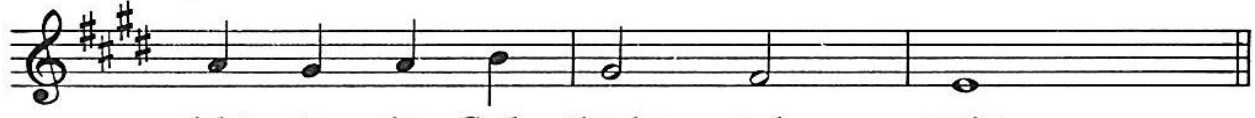


lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:



thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: NFC

#191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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 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 MUSIC: *COMMUNION FANTASY ON LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER*
(arr. Prints) Sarah Juhasz, handbell solo

COMMUNION HYMN: WE ARE AN OFFERING

#692

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef, 7/8 time. It features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD (vv. 1,2,3,5)

#669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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SENDING

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER (arr. Patricia SandersCota)

Sarah Juhasz, handbell solo

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Pianist: John Benjamin
Lay Reader: Marcia Drake

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Linda June Snyder
Organist: John Benjamin
Sound: Melonie June Warren
Stream Team: Anthony Brown, Alex Wasser
Ushers: Landon Henderson, Steve Knapp
Communion: Teresa Accuntius, Jon Hauberg, Charlotte Richard,
Kathleen Wilson