

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
23rd Sunday after Pentecost, November 16, 2025
Traditional Worship
Austin Campus 9:00 AM, Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT: *ADOPT-A-FAMILY*

Marti Bosh (A), Steve Lubbers (FH)

PRELUDE: *PSALM 9 (Carl Wiltse)*

Jubilate Bells, Jill Byers, director

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Faithful God,

C: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.**

We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.

**We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of
your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

(10:30) SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: *PENELOPE CAROLAN PRACHT*

*daughter of Nick & Sarah Pracht
Ben & Emily Chilson, sponsors*

P: People of God, do you promise to support Penelope and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: We do.

P: Do you confess your continual struggle with sin, and affirm afresh your baptismal call and identity, turning from sin and death to be forgiven and born anew in Christ?

C: We do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

P: Through baptism you have been received into the household of God,
entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to
serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we
share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN: O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU (w. 1,3,4)

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.
- 3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.
- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

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: MALACHI 4:1-2

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: FROM PSALM 98

A: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,

C: the Lord's right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

A: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

A: Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

C: lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

A: Let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

**C: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the people with equity.**

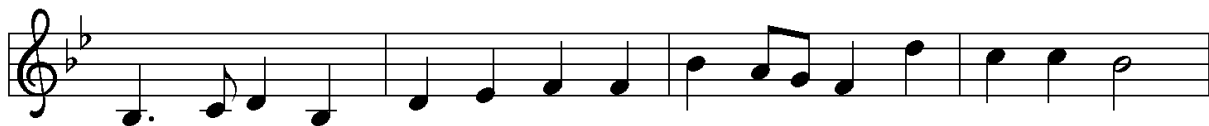
SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW10



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

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

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify.

¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

#597



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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: LIKE A RIVER IN MY SOUL (arr. Tim Osiek)

Epiphany Chorale

OFFERTORY: LOOK WHO GATHERS AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Text by Thomas H. Troeger

Music by John Benjamin

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 5/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into eight lines of music, each with its corresponding lyrics. The final line of music ends with a double bar line.

Look who ga - thers at Christ's ta - ble

Hear the sto - ries that they bring.

Some are weep - ing, some are laugh - ing

Some have songs they want to sing.

Oth - ers ask why they're in - vi - ted,

bur - dened by the wrong they've done.

Christ in - sists they all are wel - come,

there is room for ev - 'ry - one.

text copyright 2002, Oxford University Press
music copyright 2025, John Benjamin

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

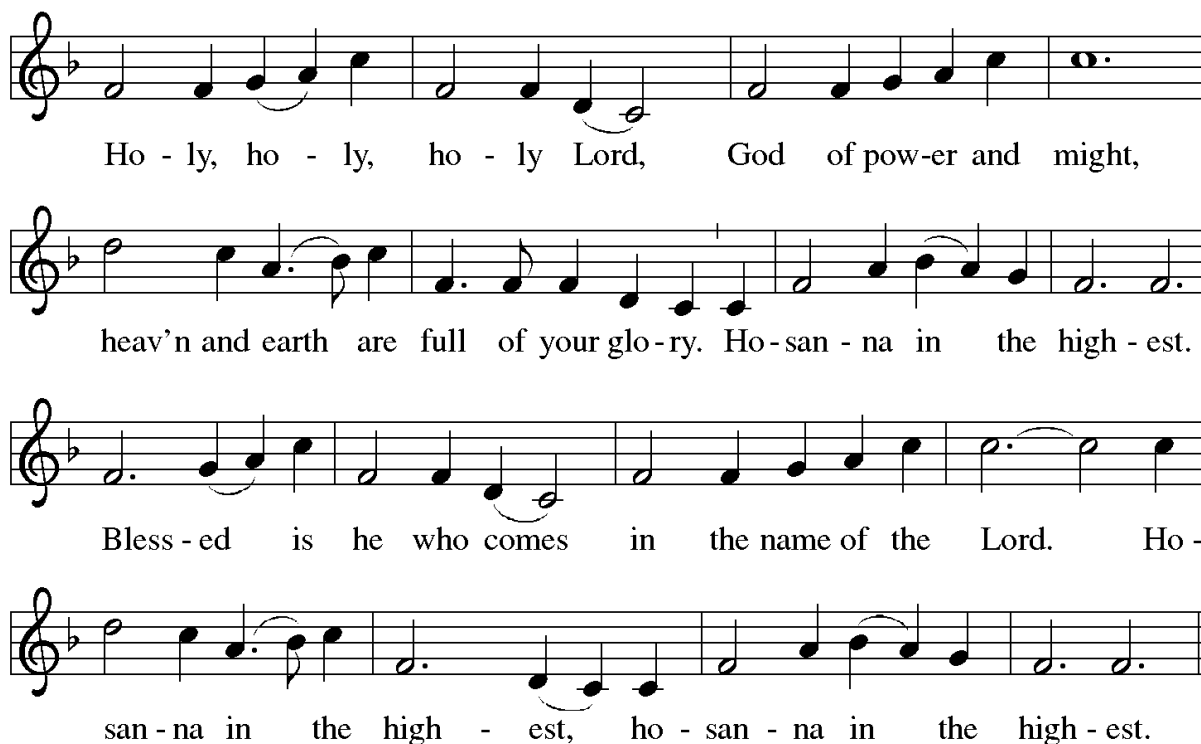
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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:

SANCTUS: *ELW10*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

#632



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou-sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: St. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: SOON AND VERY SOON

#439



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Karl Biermann
Pianist: John Benjamin
Lay Reader: David Moenter

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Sandy Houpt
Organist: John Benjamin
Sound: Melonie June Warren
Ushers: Ron Armstrong, John Venis
Communion: Kim Knechtly, Ann Painter, Marlaina Proehl,
RoseAnn Venis