

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025, 10:30 AM
Austin Campus Praise Worship (Livestreamed)

“Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward”

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *HOPE OF THE NATIONS*

Jesus hope of the nations
Jesus comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of heaven's hope on earth

Jesus light in the darkness
Jesus truth in each circumstance
You are the source of heaven's light on earth

In history You lived and died
You broke the chains, you rose to life

Chorus: You are the hope living in us
You are the Rock in whom we trust
You are the light shining for all the world to see
You rose from the dead conquering fear
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near
Jesus our hope living for all who will receive
Lord we believe

Lord we believe (3X)

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen © 2002 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Jeremiah said “I am only a boy”

C: Moses said “Who am I to do this work”

P: Mary said “How can this be”

C: We often say “But God, I am afraid”

P: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer

C: May we trust the Inviter

P: May we heed God’s invitation

C: May we summon our courage

P: May we sing God’s praise

C: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God, Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Courageous God

C: You invite us to live into our call

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust

Instead of responding with a resounding “yes”

we often hide our face

We dig our heels in

We look for someone else to volunteer

Spark courage in us

Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference

Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone

You invite us forward

With baby steps we hope, we pray, Amen

P: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past,
today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

C: We are known. We are forgiven. We are sent to serve.

**May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s call.
Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him, born the king of angels

Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God in the highest **(Refrain)**

Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing **(Refrain)**

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY

P: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**C: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles
and homemade cards**

**We see joy in the laughter of children
and the delight of grandparents**

**We see joy in meals around the table
and the singing of Christmas songs**

P: Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.

(light 3 candles)

P: May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world,
joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

C: Thanks be to God, Amen

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said,

“Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

⁷ But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

L: 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 1:26-39

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Insisting on hope this Advent, let us confess our faith.

C: We have seen the valley

We have seen a sky without stars

We have seen the longest night

And still we believe

We believe in a with-us God

We believe in the hope of tomorrow

We believe that good news is louder than fear

We believe this good news is for all people

So even when our knees shake

Even when our voice trembles

Even when fear is all around us

We will hold on to that good news

We will reach for each other

We will look for God in our midst

We will sing songs of joy

We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born

We have seen the longest night

And we have seen unimaginable love

So still we believe, Amen

SONG OF THE DAY: *JOYFUL, JOYFUL*

Joyful joyful we adore you
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before you
Op'ning to the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away

Joyful joyful we adore you
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before you
Joyful joyful we adore you
Joyful we adore you

All your works with joy surround you
Earth and heav'n reflect your ways
Stars and angels sing around you
Center of unbroken praise

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away

Joyful joyful we adore you
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before you
Joyful joyful we adore you
Joyful we adore you

Words and Music by Bernie Herms and Mark Hall © 2009 BanaHama Tunes, Word Music, LLC, SWECS Music, Club Zoo Music, My Refuge Music, and Sony/ATV Tree Publishing.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING: SOMEBODY LIKE ME

I'm the child of a loving Father
I'm a part of the family
His mercy is sweet like summer
And he's always welcoming

So if you feel like you're going under
Come and fall on amazing grace
He's the God who can walk on water
And his love can change

Chorus: Somebody like me, somebody like you
You come as you are and you leave brand new
If you're feeling broken, running out of hope then
Just look how his love set free
Somebody like me [somebody like me]

Somebody like me should be buried under all my mistakes
Six feet under what I've done
But now I'm covered by the weight of his grace
Hallelujah for the blood that saves (*Chorus*)

Bridge: If you're the wayward son
If you're the daughter on the run
It doesn't matter where you're coming from
He'll set you free, he'll wash you clean
If you're the sheep that's lost
If you're the thief on the cross
You can change the road you're walking on
He'll set you free, he'll wash you clean (*Chorus*)

Words and Music by Caleb Crino, Colby Wedgeworth and John Secker © Capitol CMG Genesis | Wedgeworth Publishing | Crino Publishing | Fair Trade Global Songs | Secker Songs

INVITATION TO 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.**

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

Words and Music by Ben Glover, Ben McDonald, and Dave Frey © 9t One Songs, Ariose Music (Both Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Dayspring Music, LLC (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.), Pencil Prophet Publishing, Run Run Milo (Both Admin. by Word Entertainment, LLC).

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

CLOSING SONG: *ALL THE PEOPLE SAID AMEN*

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

Chorus: And all the people said Amen
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

If you're rich or poor, well it don't matter
Weak or strong we know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his Son to save us all (*Chorus*)

Bridge: Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs in the kingdom, the kingdom of God (*Chorus*)

And all the people said Amen

Words and Music by Paul Greer Moak, Trevor Morgan and Matthew Maher © 2013 Thankyou Music (PRS), Valley of Songs Music (BMI)
(All Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

BENEDICTION

P: In a fearful world, may we look for God's spirit.
May we reach for each other's hands.
May we choose courage whenever we can.
And in all things, may we remember that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls, ✠ the one who sends,
and the one who journeys with— go in peace and do not be afraid.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister:	Mike Wipperman
Praise Team:	Doug Day, Bob Gray, Al Grodrian, Jake & Mary Groom, Craig Hoerig, Thom Reitz, Cat Sorensen, Alexis Veigel
A/V:	Ted Meyer, Owen Smith
Stream Team:	Anthony Brown, Landon Henderson
Ushers:	Bob & Kris Mangan
Communion:	Lindsay & Troy Wipperman

From sundaysandseasons.com © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006658. • New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. • Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. • For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License No. 467862. • Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-702755.