

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Baptism of Our Lord, January 11, 2025

Praise Worship

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

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *THAT'S WHO I PRAISE*

I want to dance like David
I want a faith like Paul
I want to sing like Silas tearing down the prison walls
I want to face that fire
It won't burn me though
God's got my back
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
I wanna walk like Moses
Right through the waves
One day I'll see that promise land, no longer slaves
Though the fear is talkin', no it can't take out my faith

Chorus: I'm gonna praise
I'm gonna praise
I praise the mountain, movin' body, raising breaker of chains
Gonna praise
I'm gonna praise
I praise the heaven-seated, undefeated highest of names
That's who I praise, hey
That's who I praise
That's who I praise

I want a gift like Mary
I want to break my vase
I want to sleep like Daniel even in a lion's cave
I'm gonna get that promise
Just like Jericho
Yeah, I know what'll make it fall (*Chorus*)

I praise the God who's proven He can do impossible things
That's who I praise, hey
That's who I praise
That's who I praise

Bridge: He is the lion of Judah
He is the lamb that was slain
The only One who's worthy, worthy
Worthy of all of His names
That's who I praise
He is the risen Messiah
He is the ancient of days
The only One who's worthy, worthy
Worthy of all of His names
That's who I praise (*Chorus*)

I praise the God who's proven He can do impossible things
That's who I praise, hey
That's who I praise
That's who I praise

I want to love like Jesus
That kinda grace
I want to live like I've got no more precious time to waste
I'm gonna give Him glory
With all my thanks
'Cause there's no greater, stronger higher name and
That's who I praise

Words and Music: Steven Furtick, Ben Hastings, Brandon Lake, Michael Nichols, Zachary Lawson.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT: HOPEWOOD OUTDOORS

Pr. Karl Biermann (FH), Cloe Smith (A)

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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: I renounce them.

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, the Son of God?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to
continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: HOLY WATER

God I'm on my knees again
God I'm begging please again
I need you oh I need you
Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need you oh I need you

Chorus: Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water on my skin

Dead man walking, slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need you oh God I need you
So take me to the riverside
Take me under, baptize
I need you oh God I need you (*Chorus*)

Bridge: I don't wanna abuse your grace,
God I need it every day
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change
(*Sing Bridge 3X*) (*Chorus 2X*)

It's like holy water on my skin, it's like holy water

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,
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: ISAIAH 42:1-9

¹*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

²*He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;*

³*a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

⁴*He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.*

⁵*Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:*

⁶*I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;*

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

⁷*to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.*

⁸*I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.*

⁹*See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.*

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *MADE FOR HEAVEN*

Do you feel like something is wrong here
Like you don't belong here
It's not just you
Do you look at a night sky full of stars
Feel an aching in your heart
I feel it too

Chorus: We might be here for now
But don't forget where we're going
Gonna trade this world for a better place
Gonna wave goodbye
to the hurt and the pain

We'll dance on streets of gold
When we get where we're going
Gonna see what our hearts
have known forever
We were not made for here
We were made for heaven

Do you long to see your Father's face
He'll wipe your tears away
And hold you close
Do you know that this won't be the end
'Cause there's so much more than this
We're almost home (*Chorus*)

And the ones we've lost along the way
Will run to meet us at the gate
Oh my heart can hardly wait for heaven
Where death has finally lost its sting
Believers stand in victory
And bow before the King of kings
in heaven (*Chorus*)

We were made for heaven

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Meal

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

OFFERING: LEFT IT IN THE RIVER

I had burdens on my shoulders all my life
I tried and tried to leave 'em all behind
But freedom's one thing I could never find

I said a prayer from the banks of a river
God met me there, showing me something better

Chorus: My life was changed when I stepped into the water
Ain't seen my chains since I gave 'em to the Father
Hallelujah, I've been delivered
Where is my guilt, where is my shame
I left it in the river, I left it in the river

Now, there's nothing that can take this joy I've found
He raised me up and I ain't coming down
He washed me clean and now there ain't no doubt
He turned it all around (*Chorus*)

I said a prayer from the banks of a river
God met me there, showing me something better
I left my wrongs at the bottom of the river
I said so long, said goodbye forever (*Chorus*)

Songwriters: Colby Wedgeworth, Jamie Lyn Macdonald, Jonathan Conrad Gamble.

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...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.**

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 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: O COME TO THE ALTAR

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought
With the precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling (*Chorus 2X*)

Bridge: Oh what a Savior, isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
(*Bridge*) (*Chorus 2X*)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: COUNTING EVERY BLESSING

I was blind now I'm seeing in color
I was dead now I'm living forever
I had failed but you were my Redeemer
I've been blessed beyond all measure

I was lost now I'm found by the Father
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure
I've been given a hope and a future
I've been blessed beyond all measure

Chorus: I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me

Oh you are good to me (2X)

You were there in the valley of shadows
You were there in the depth of my sorrows
You're my strength my hope for tomorrow
I've been blessed beyond all measure (*Chorus*)

Oh you are good to me (2X)

Bridge: Surely your goodness pursues me
Surely your heart is still for me
I will remember your mercies all my days
Through every storm and gale (*Chorus 2X*)

Oh you are good to me (4X)

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SENDING

L: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Mark Chilson
Praise Team: Doug Day, Al Grodrian, Jake & Mary Groom,
Craig Hoerig, Thom Reitz
Sound: Roland Hogendoorn
Ushers: Beth Fischer, Tom Gariety
Communion: Laurie Evans, Angi Moots, Kelly & Troy Stoller

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister: Candy Norman
Praise Team: Doug Day, Al Grodrian, Jake & Mary Groom,
Craig Hoerig, Thom Reitz
A/V: Roland Hogendoorn, Gretchen Voisard
Stream Team: Scott Haligowski, Ryan Pearson
Ushers: Bob & Kris Mangan
Communion: Sharon Culham, The Haligowski Family