

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2026

Praise Worship

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

**Tell Me Something Good**  
**the good news is...together, the impossible is possible**

Gather

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**GATHERING SONG:** *COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP*

**Chorus:** Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

One day every tongue will confess you are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now  
(Chorus)

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives  
Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart soul mind and strength we gladly choose you now  
(Chorus)

Come, come, come  
Just as you are, come, come

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Holy God,

**C: With you the impossible is possible.**

**5000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope.**

**With you the impossible is possible,**

**but we are quick to forget that.**

**We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves**

**that nothing can be done.**

**We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.**

**We forget that you are always with us.**

**Forgive our small-minded ways.**

**Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.**

**But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

P: Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,  
Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.  
The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

**C: Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.**

**We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.**

**What good, good news. Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

## SONG OF PRAISE: *IN CHRIST ALONE*

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song

This cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

**Chorus:** What heights of love, what depths of peace

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All

Here in the love of Christ I stand

There in the ground his body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave he rose again

**Chorus2:** And as he stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am his and he is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny

**Chorus3:** No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I stand

Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I stand  
Here in the power of Christ we stand

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## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Word

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## **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN**

**FIRST READING: I KINGS 18:21-26, 29-39 (The Message)**

<sup>21</sup> Elijah challenged the people: “How long are you going to sit on the fence? If God is the real God, follow him; if it’s Baal, follow him. Make up your minds!” Nobody said a word; nobody made a move. <sup>22-24</sup> Then Elijah said, “I’m the only prophet of God left in Israel; and there are 450 prophets of Baal. Let the Baal prophets bring up two oxen; let them pick one, butcher it, and lay it out on an altar on firewood—but don’t ignite it. I’ll take the other ox, cut it up, and lay it on the wood. But neither will I light the fire. Then you pray to your gods and I’ll pray to God. The god who answers with fire will prove to be, in fact, God.” All the people agreed: “A good plan—do it!” <sup>25</sup> Elijah told the Baal prophets, “Choose your ox and prepare it. You go first, you’re the majority. Then pray to your god, but don’t light the fire.” <sup>26</sup> So they took the ox he had given them, prepared it for the altar, then prayed to Baal. They prayed all morning long, “O Baal, answer us!” But nothing happened—not so much as a whisper of breeze. Desperate, they jumped and stomped on the altar they had made. <sup>29</sup> This went on until well past noon. They used every religious trick and strategy they knew to make something happen on the altar, but nothing happened—not so much as a whisper, not a flicker of response. <sup>30-35</sup> Then Elijah told the people, “Enough of that—it’s my turn. Gather around.” And they gathered. He then put the altar back together for by now it was in ruins. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Jacob, the same Jacob to whom God had said, “From now on your name is Israel.” He built the stones into the altar in honor of God. Then Elijah dug a fairly wide trench around the altar. He laid firewood on the altar, cut up the ox, put it on the wood, and said, “Fill four buckets with water and drench both the ox and the firewood.” Then he said, “Do it again,” and they did it. Then he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. The altar was drenched and the trench was filled with water. <sup>36-37</sup> When it was time for the sacrifice to be offered, Elijah the prophet came up and prayed, “O God, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, make it known right now that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I’m doing what I’m doing under your orders. Answer me, God; O answer me and reveal to this people that you are God, the true God, and that you are giving these people another chance at repentance.” <sup>38</sup> Immediately the fire of God fell and burned up the offering, the wood, the stones, the dirt, and even the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup> All the people saw it happen and fell on their faces in awed worship, exclaiming, “God is the true God! God is the true God!”

**A:** The work of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

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

**GOSPEL READING: MARK 6:32-44**

<sup>32</sup> [Jesus and the disciples] went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And all ate and were filled, <sup>43</sup> and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

Pr. Corey Wagonfield

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**A:** Believing the good news, let us confess our faith.

**C:** **I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches,**

**even when wars rage,**

**even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who welcomed the children  
and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **SONG OF THE DAY: *LIVING WATER***

This goes out to every outcast, to the just don't quite fit in  
Every wrong way runaway rebel so ashamed of where you've been  
This goes out to every searcher trying to fill that empty space  
Well you're searching days are over now, everything's about to change

**Chorus:** Come on down to the living water  
Waves of mercy washing over you  
No more strangers, only sons and daughters  
Come down to the living water and rise up new

Have you heard about a man named Jesus  
He's the Way the Truth the Life  
Stretched out his arms on a rugged cross and paid every sinner's price  
So when you're tired of all your running, you don't have to run no more  
You can leave it all behind you, just believe and be reborn (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Oh this is your invitation  
Oh no more lost and alone  
Oh this is your invitation  
Hear your Father saying “Welcome home”

See that cross up on the steeple, hear that sweet forgiveness song  
Come and join the Jesus people, this is where your heart belongs (*Chorus*)  
Come down to the living water and rise up new (*Repeat*)

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## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### Meal

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#### **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*)

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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...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.**

## **COMMUNION SONG: *ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY***

All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy, as deep cries out to deep, we sing

Come Lord Jesus come (4X)

Holy Spirit come  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

Come Lord Jesus come (2X)

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

Send \_\_\_\_\_

## **BENEDICTION**

## **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

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## **SENDING**

**A:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Serving in Worship

### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer  
Assisting Minister: Steve Lubbers  
Praise Team: Connor Cusick, Bob Gray, Jake & Mary Groom,  
Craig Hoerig, Alexis Veigel, Scott Watamaniuk,  
Robyn Zimmann  
Sound: Spencer Watamaniuk  
Ushers: Jim & Sue Ehrensberger  
Communion: Laurie Evans, Pam Lubbers, Lori & Nolan Watamaniuk

### Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield  
Assisting Minister: Billy Heaning  
Praise Team: Connor Cusick, Bob Gray, Jake & Mary Groom,  
Craig Hoerig, Alexis Veigel, Scott Watamaniuk,  
Robyn Zimmann  
Sound: Spencer Watamaniuk  
Stream Team: Anthony Brown, Scott Haligowski  
Ushers: Bob & Kris Mangan  
Communion: Sharon Culham, The Haligowski Family