

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 22, 2026

Praise Worship

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

**Tell Me Something Good**  
**the good news is...rooted in justice, mercy & faithfulness**

Gather

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## **GATHERING SONG:** *THIS IS AMAZING GRACE*

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

**Chorus:** This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love  
That you would take my place, that you would bear my cross  
You laid down your life that I would be set free  
Jesus I sing for all that you've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave (*Sing 3X*)  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy (*Chorus*)

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Holy God,

**C: We love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers.  
We love right and wrong. We love swift justice.  
We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way.  
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.  
You prioritize mercy over legality.  
You prioritize people over tradition.  
You prioritize love over everything.  
Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.  
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.  
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.  
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.  
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

P: Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**C: Our God is a God of mercy.  
Our God is a God of compassion.  
Our God is a God of grace.  
We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.  
Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE: COME ALIVE (DRY BONES)**

Through the eyes of men it seems  
There's so much we have lost  
As we look down the road where  
All the prodigals have walked  
One by one the enemy has whispered lies  
And led them off as slaves

But we know that you are God, yours is the victory  
We know there is more to come  
That we may not yet see  
So with the faith you've given us  
We'll step into the valley unafraid, yeah

**Chorus:** We call out to dry bones come alive, come alive  
We call out to dead hearts come alive, come alive  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise  
We call out to dry bones, come alive

God of endless mercy, God of unrelenting love  
Rescue every daughter bring us back the wayward son  
And by your spirit breathe upon them  
Show the world that you alone can save  
You alone can save

**Bridge:** So breathe, oh breath of God  
Now breathe, oh breath of God  
Breathe, oh breath of God now breathe

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## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Word

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## **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN**

## **FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

<sup>22</sup> So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred ten years. <sup>23</sup> Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knees.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

## **GOSPEL READING: JOHN 8:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

Pr. Corey

## SONG OF THE DAY: A THOUSAND TIMES

Do you remember all those lonely nights  
When he took the wrongs that you couldn't make right  
And every tear that you cried, every broken prayer you prayed  
He turned it for good, he lets nothing go to waste

**Chorus:** You can count on that, you know what he's like  
You've seen him do it a thousand times  
Yeah even in the dead of night  
There's never been a morning when the sun don't rise  
He'll never let go, you know that it's true  
He's still that good and he's still got you  
You can count on that, you know what he's like  
You've seen him do it a thousand times

Do you remember when you felt ashamed  
When you couldn't get free from the mistakes that you made  
And he met you with his kindness, compelled you with grace  
So if you wanna come home, he'll show you the way (*Chorus*)

Again and again, you've seen him do it a thousand times  
Again and again, you'll see him do it a thousand times

**Bridge:** He made his mercies new 'cause he knew we'd forget  
All the things he's done and just how good he is  
He's a faithful God, every word is true  
And he always does what he says he'll do (*Chorus*)

Again and again, you've seen him do it a thousand times  
Again and again, you'll see him do it a thousand times

## WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

### 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.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

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

P: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**C: We welcome you in living out the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## **OFFERING: RISE UP**

In the dark and all alone, growing comfortable  
Are you too scared to move and walk out of this tomb  
Buried underneath the lies that you believed  
Safe and sound, stuck in the ground, too lost to be found  
You're just asleep and it's time to leave

**Chorus:** Come on and rise up  
Take a breath you're alive now  
Can't you hear the voice of Jesus calling us  
Out from the grave like Lazarus  
You're brand new  
The power of death couldn't hold you  
Can't you hear the voice of Jesus calling us  
Out from the grave like Lazarus  
Rise up, rise up, rise up  
Out from the grave like Lazarus

When he said your name  
The thing that filled your veins was more than blood  
It's the kind of love that washes sin away  
Now the door is open wide  
And the stones been rolled aside  
The old is gone, the light has come so... (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** He's calling us to walk out of the dark  
He's giving us new resurrected hearts (*Repeat Bridge, 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, 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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

**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: GRAVES INTO GARDENS

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough  
Then you came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love

**Chorus:** Oh there's nothing better than you  
There's nothing better than you  
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you

I'm not afraid to show you my weakness  
My failures and flaws Lord you've seen them all and you still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley  
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again (*Chorus 2X*)

**Bridge:** You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can (*Repeat*)

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can (*Repeat*)

You're the only one who can

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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

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## BENEDICTION

## **CLOSING SONG:** *YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH*

Great is your faithfulness oh God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

**Pre-Chorus:** So remember your people  
Remember your children  
Remember your promise oh God

**Chorus:** Your grace is enough, your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

Great is your love and justice God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of your salvation  
And all your people sing along  
*(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus 2X) (Pre-Chorus) (Chorus)*

**Chorus2:** Your grace is enough, Heaven reaching down to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
  
God I see your grace is enough, I'm covered in your love  
Your grace is enough for me, for me

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## **SENDING**

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

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in Worship

### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield  
Pianist: John Benjamin  
Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer  
Assisting Minister: Becky Zink  
Praise Team: Michele Borns, Al Grodrian, Mary Groom,  
Emily & Hannah Hendrickson, Craig Hoerig,  
Dick Lane, Scott Watamaniuk  
Sound: Spencer Watamaniuk  
Ushers: Jim & Sue Ehrensberger  
Communion: Lou & Sandy Czewski, Angi Moots, Lori Watamaniuk

### Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield  
Assisting Minister: Billy Heaning  
Praise Team: Michele Borns, Al Grodrian, Mary Groom,  
Emily & Hannah Hendrickson, Craig Hoerig,  
Dick Lane, Scott Watamaniuk  
Youth Praise Band: Gwen Alexander, Connor Cusick, Olivia Donaghue,  
Danny Fulton, Felicity Glass, Hannah Hendrickson,  
Madison McGaha, Madelyn Sweet, Adalyn Walker  
A/V: Spencer Watamaniuk, Kalie Hogendoorn  
Stream Team: Scott Haligowski, Ryan Pearson  
Usher: Todd Schluter  
Communion: The Manning Family