

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
9th Sunday after Pentecost, July 26, 2026
Traditional Worship
Austin Campus 9:00 AM, Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Compassionate God

C: We confess to you all our sins

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves

In your mercy, call us back to you

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light

Restore us to dwell in your peace

In Christ's name we pray, Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: *1 KINGS 3:5-12*

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: *PSALM 119:129-136*

A: Your decrees are wonderful; therefore, I obey them with all my heart.

C: When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

A: I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

A: Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

A: Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C: My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor

height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW4

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his

angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE

622 V 1-3

Refrain

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

- 1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;
though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise
through the Spirit who brings you to life. *Refrain*
- 2 All who are led by the Spirit shall live
as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus,
God's adopted and chosen and loved. *Refrain*
- 3 All of the suffering we now must endure
is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed
when creation itself is set free. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Romans 8. Text © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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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

Meal

OFFERTORY: *LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL*

#183

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980; Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *ELW4*

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...and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: *ELW4*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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 HYMN: *SEEK YE FIRST*

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And its righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and you shall find

Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, alleluia

We do not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the Mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *O LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN*

#542 V 1,3,4

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'erflows!
- 3 You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
the favor you have shown,
and all my soul and spirit
bow down before your throne.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;

and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

SENDING

A: Heaven has come near. Go share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Pianist:	Liam Utt
Lay Reader:	Jim Lehman
Cantor:	Micah Hung
Sound, Usher, A/V:	Brittany Albert

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister:	Judith Clark
Pianist:	Liam Utt
Cantor:	Charlotte and Katie Richard
Sound:	Ben Richter
Ushers:	Lon and Therese Molnar
Communion:	Brittany Cusick, Gregg Gorsuch, Sandy Houpt, Ann Simpson