

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
18th Sunday after Pentecost, September 27, 2026
Praise Worship
Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM, Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD*

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great

How great is our God
And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: **We confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will.**
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE: *GOD I'M JUST GRATEFUL*

There was no way until You made one
Grace upon grace hallelujah
Even though I don't deserve it
You did it
Even though I couldn't earn it
You give it

Who am I that You keep me on Your mind
God I'm just grateful for You
God I'm just grateful for You
All my life You've been right here by my side
God I'm just grateful for You
God I'm just grateful for You

Holy holy there's only one
I give You glory for all that You've done
Even though I don't deserve it
You did it
Even though I couldn't earn it

You give it

I I'm lifting both of my hands

You gave me chance after chance after chance

I I'm giving all that I am

You gave me chance after chance after chance

I survived and I'm here to testify

God I'm just grateful for You

God I'm just grateful for You

I'm alright if they say I'm outta my mind

God I'm just grateful for You

God I'm just grateful for You

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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

WELCOME THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: *PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13*

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32*

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the

kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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.**

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 let's nothing go to waste

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

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
Again and again
You've seen Him do it a thousand times
Again and again
You'll see Him do it a thousand times

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
Just what He says He'll do

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
Again and again
You'll see Him do it a thousand times
Again and again
You'll see Him do it a thousand times

A Thousand Times [B]

[Default Arrangement] by Darren Mulligan, Ethan Hulse, and Jonathan Smith

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Meal

OFFERING: *SAME POWER*

I can see the waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken

We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave

The same power that commands the dead to wake

Lives in us lives in us

The same power that moves mountains when He speaks

The same power that can calm a raging sea

Lives in us lives in us

He lives in us lives in us

We have hope that His promises are true

In His strength there is nothing we can't do

Yes we know there are greater things in store

We will not be overtaken

We will not be overcome

Greater is He that is living in me

He's conquered our enemy (oh)

No power of darkness

No weapon prevails

We stand here in victory oh

In victory yeah

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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: *KING OF KINGS*

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *MY LIGHTHOUSE*

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence You won't let go
In the questions Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
Shining in the darkness
I will follow You oh
My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore
Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Fire before us
You're the brightest
You will lead us
Through the storms (hey)
(REPEAT 3X)

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SENDING

L: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Andy Addy
Praise Team: Bob Gray, Mary Groom, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Dick Lane, Sienna Pearson, Thom Reitz, Scott Watamaniuk and Robyn Zimmann
Sound: Ted Meyer
Usher: Beth Fischer, Angi Moots
Communion: Joyce Addy, John Deitrich, Cindy Drabenstott, Rich Drabenstott, Kelly Stoller

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister: Owen Smith
Praise Team: Bob Gray, Mary Groom, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Dick Lane, Sienna Pearson, Thom Reitz, Scott Watamaniuk and Robyn Zimmann
Sound: Ted Meyer
A/V: Billy Heaning
Usher: Todd Schluter
Communion: Adalyn, Jake, Izzie and Terresa Walker

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