

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 18, 2026
Traditional Worship
Austin Campus 9:00 AM, Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10:30) PRELUDE “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” JUBILATE BELLS

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.

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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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

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: *ISAIAH 45:1-7*

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
 and level the mountains;
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name;
 I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the LORD do all these things.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: *PSALM 96*

A: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C: ² Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

A: ³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

C: ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods

A: ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

C: ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

A: ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

C: ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

A: ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 10



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 22:15-22

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

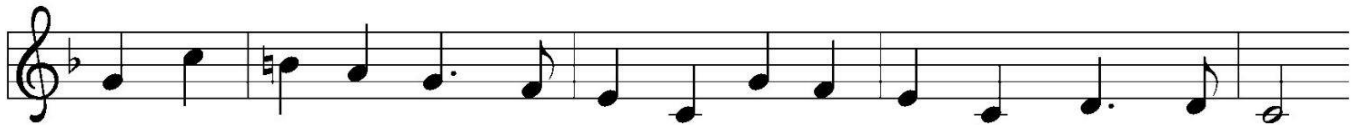
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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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

OFFERING

(10:30) "O SIFUNI MUNGU" ARR. DAVID MADDUX

EPIPHANY CHORALE
 LUCAS HUNG PERCUSSIONIST

OFFERTORY: ACCEPT, O LORD, THE GIFTS WE BRING

#691 v. 3



Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you Lord,



by your grace now come to us, as hum-bly we a - dore you

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW 10

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

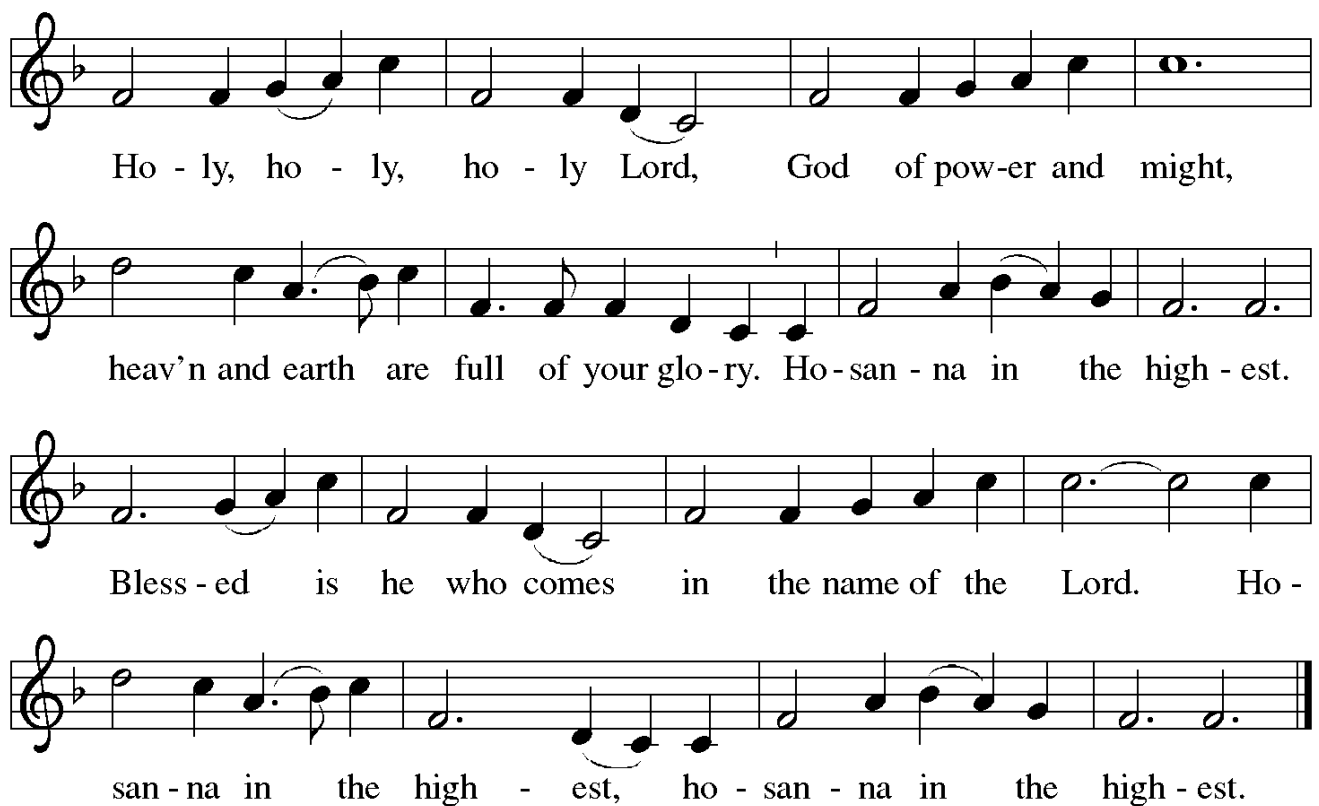
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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 places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. So with believers on earth, all creation, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture

in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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: *LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING*

#841

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

COMMISSIONING OF HOME COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

#705

God of Grace and God of Glory



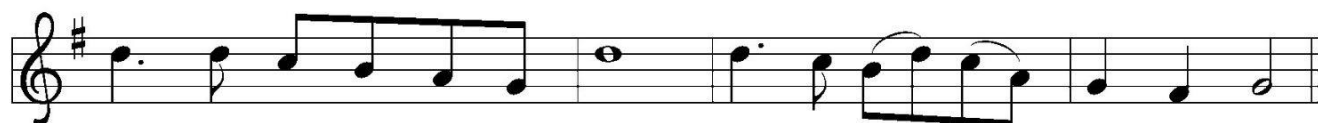
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Lay Reader: Donna Cooper
Pianist: John Benjamin
Sound, Usher, A/V: Brittany Albert

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor John Hitzeroth
Assisting Minister: Sandy Houpt
Organist: John Benjamin
Percussionist: Lucas Hung
Sound: Alex Wasser
Slides: Alex Wasser
Ushers: Karen and Phil Nardi
Communion: Wendy Beavers, Janice Codispoti, Debbie Gresham,
Paul Gresham, Verity Snyder