

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Loving Jesus by Serving Others

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 2024

Traditional Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM, Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *PRELUDE ON "EVAN" (Gordon Young)*

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

(silence for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips,

but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: We have been forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Savior.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to each other and share the peace of the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Greet your neighbor with a sign of peace)



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

APOSTOLIC GREETING


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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE


Refrain




This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the




Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and




hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain* This is the feast of




vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

(Please be seated)

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2,6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 15

A: Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

C: Who may abide upon your holy hill?

A: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right;

C: those who speak the truth from their heart;

A: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

C: they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

A: In their sight the wicked are rejected;

C: they honor those who fear the Lord.

A: They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

C: They do not give their money in hope of gain;

A: they do not take bribes against the innocent.

C: Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

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

GOSPEL READING: MARK 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus],
²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY: LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL

#512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.**

(Please kneel or be seated)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (after each petition...)

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Meal

(Please be seated)

OFFERING: HEAR THE SPIRIT OF CREATION (Jeannette Lindholm)

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY: THE TRUMPETS SOUND, THE ANGELS SING

#531

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The trum-pets sound, the an - gels sing the feast is read - dy to be-gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide, and Je - sus wel-comes you in - side. Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de-light. Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light. Take your place at the ta - ble of the King. The feast is read - y to be-gin the feast is read - y to be-gin." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) over the final two staves.

Text and music Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere. All rights reserved. ASCAP.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

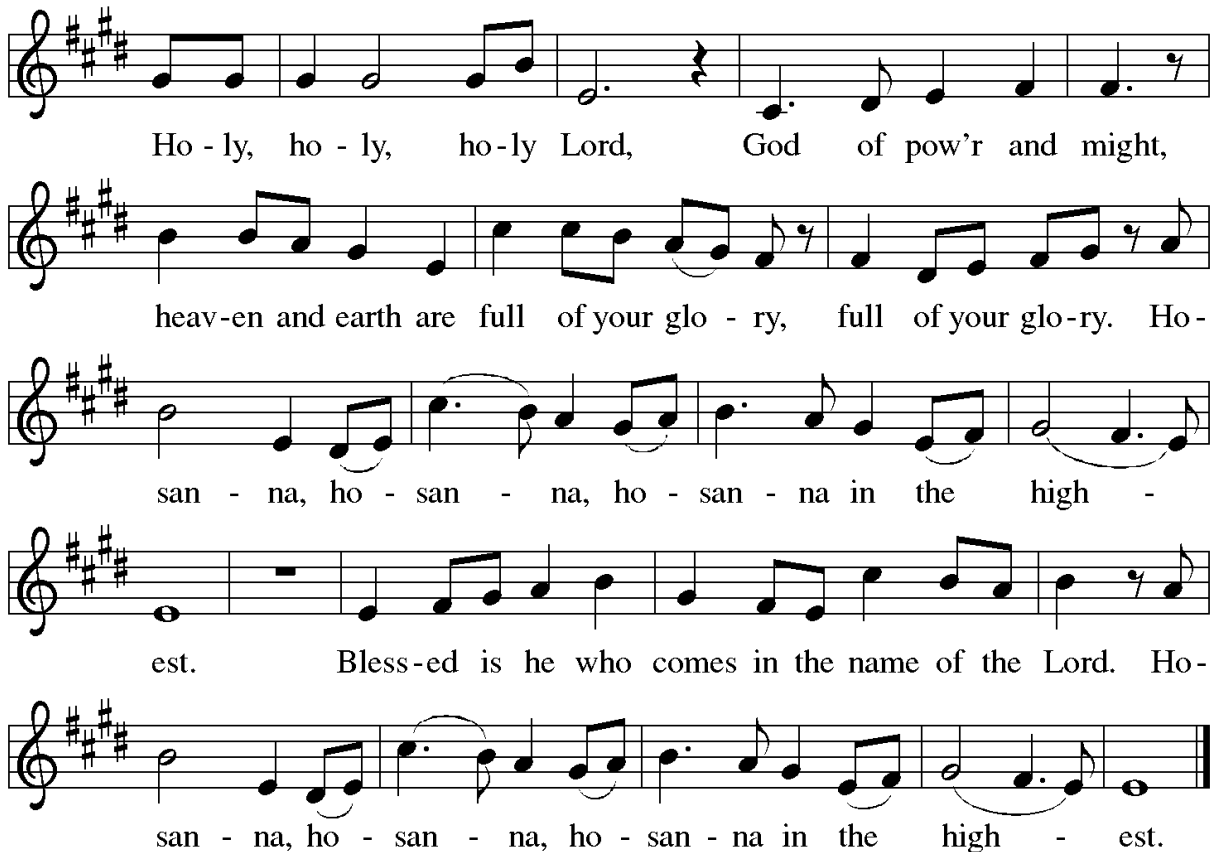
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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

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.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.

Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. (9:00) Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the bread in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. (10:30) Please come to the table by the diagonal aisle and return to your seat by the center or a front aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the wafer in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available at the front of the center aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN: O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU

#818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

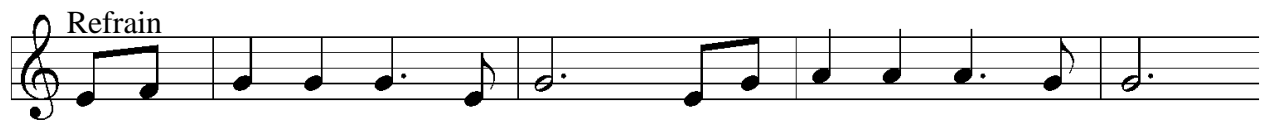
(Please stand as you are able)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD



Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is call - ing you to - day.



Go and tell gos - pel news ev - 'ry - where.



Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is call - ing you to - day



to bring truth and love to ev - 'ry na - tion.



Sent forth with God's bles - sing our true faith con - fes - sing,



as chil - dren of God we take our leave.



With your feast you feed us, by your light you lead us,



em - bold - en us to share what we've re - ceived. (To Refrain)

Text: Handt Hanson

Music: GO IN PEACE. Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Bob Bresemann
Pianist: John Benjamin

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Sandy Houpt
Organist: John Benjamin
Cantor: Ray Wasky
Sound: Todd Armstrong
Stream Team: Melonie June Warren, Alex Wasser
Ushers: Ron Armstrong, John Venis
Communion Servers: Ann & Warner Simpson, Verity Snyder, RoseAnn Venis

Altar flowers in the Far Hills Sanctuary are from Gary and Christine Barker in memory of their son Jason.

Scripture readings for the 16 th Sunday after Pentecost, September 8, 2024: Isaiah 35:4-7, Psalm 146, James 2:1-17, Mark 7:24-37
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