

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

I<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

Praise Worship

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

## Gather

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**GATHERING SONG:** *COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:** *EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED*

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
Let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**SONG OF PRAISE:** *JOYFUL, JOYFUL*

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** From the one who is and who was and who is to come, grace and peace be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## Word

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### WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

**FIRST READING:** *JEREMIAH 33:14-16*

<sup>14</sup> *The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."*

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

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

## SECOND READING: I THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

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

## GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

### NICENE CREED

A: Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *GOD WITH US*

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,  
C: **hear our prayer.**

**M e a l**

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**SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

**OFFERING:** *THY WORD*

**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:  
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

P: Holy One....

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.

Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.**

## 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 SONG: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send \_\_\_\_\_

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in Worship

### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer  
Assisting Minister: Becky Zink  
Praise Team: Ned Greene, Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Bill Norman, Thom Reitz,  
Cassie Wade, Melonie June Warren, Scott Watamaniuk  
A/V: Roland Hogendoorn, Lori Embry  
Ushers: Jim & Sue Ehrensberger  
Communion: Rich Embry, Jennifer Henderson, Angi Moots, Nora Wilhelm

### Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Heidi Johns  
Assisting Minister: Billy Heaning  
Praise Team: Ned Greene, Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Bill Norman, Thom Reitz,  
Cassie Wade, Melonie June Warren, Scott Watamaniuk  
A/V: Roland Hogendoorn, Mark Bosh  
Stream Team: Scott Haligowski, Landon Henderson  
Usher: Stephanie Fulton  
Communion: Sharon Culham, Ben, Erin & Sam Haligowski  
Acolyte: Grace Bosh