

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

Traditional Worship

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

## Gather

---

**PRELUDE:** *PARTITA ON SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME* (Mark Bloedow)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:** *HOPE*

**OPENING HYMN:** *DRAWN TO THE LIGHT*

#593



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

## 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

---

## WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

### FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: HE CAME DOWN

#253



He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have peace



he came down that we may have joy; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

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

**GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1:39-55**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

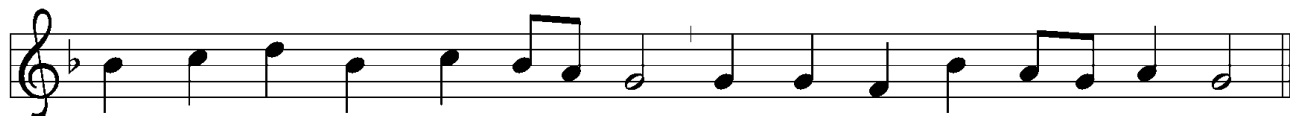
**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME (vv. 1-4)**

#263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

## 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.**

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M e a l

---

## SHARING THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING: LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING** (arr. Mark Andrews)

*Epiphany Chorale*

**OFFERTORY: THERE IS A LONGING IN OUR HEARTS (v. 4)**

(Refrain – All, Verse – Choir)

*Refrain – All*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -

veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our

hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Choir*

1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our

hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

**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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS: HARK, THE GLAD SOUND! (vv. 1,4)

#239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## 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.*



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Send \_\_\_\_\_

**BENEDICTION**





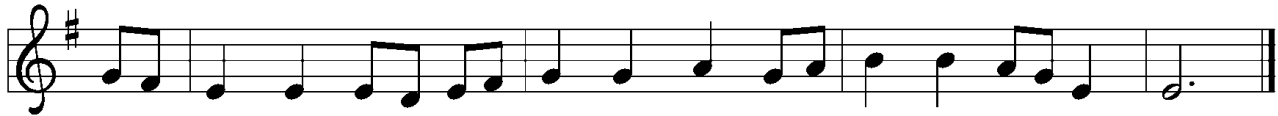
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

**SENDING**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Heidi Johns  
 Pianist: John Benjamin  
 Lay Reader: Jim Lehman

Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer  
 Assisting Minister: Linda June Snyder  
 Organist: John Benjamin  
 Sound: Todd Armstrong  
 Stream Team: Landon Henderson, Melonie June Warren  
 Ushers: Ron Armstrong, John Venis  
 Communion: Felicity Glass, Jon Hauberg, Mary Moenter, Ann Painter