

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany of Our Lord, January 5, 2025

Praise Worship

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

Gather

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**GATHERING SONG:** *LET GOD ARISE*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FAR HILLS ONLY**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**P:** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.  
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

**P:** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: I renounce them.**

**P:** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

AFFIRMATION

**P:** People of God, do you promise to support our sister and brother and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**P:** Let us rejoice with our sister and brother in Christ.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(silence for reflection)*

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,**

**while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds,**

**expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**Grant us the grace to begin again.**

**Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**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.**

## SONG OF PRAISE: YOUR GRACE FINDS ME

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

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## WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING: FROM PSALM 72**

A: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

**C: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice.**

A: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

**C: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.**

A: In his time may the righteous flourish;

**C: let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

A: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

**C: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.**

A: For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed,  
and those who have no helper.

**C: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.**

A: From oppression and violence he redeems their lives;

**C: precious is their blood in his sight.**

**SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 2:1-12**

*<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:*

*<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "*

*<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

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:** *LIGHT OF THE WORLD*

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**M e a l**

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**OFFERING:** *REVELATION SONG*

**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.**

## **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 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. (10:30) 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.*

**COMMUNION SONG:** *NOEL*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Send

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## **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG:** *MY LIGHTHOUSE*

## **SENDING**

**L:** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

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

## Serving in Worship

### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tracy Paschke-Johannes  
Assisting Minister: Andy Addy  
Praise Team: Gabe Ferraiuolo, Ned Greene, Al Grodrian,  
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Sienna Pearson,  
Anastasia Rodgers, Scott Watamaniuk  
Sound: Ted Meyer  
Ushers: John Dietrich, Tom Gariety  
Communion: Lori & Rich Embry, Althena Helbach, Laurie Evans

### Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Heidi Johns  
Assisting Minister: Natalie Heimann  
Praise Team: Gabe Ferraiuolo, Ned Greene, Al Grodrian,  
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Sienna Pearson,  
Anastasia Rodgers, Scott Watamaniuk  
A/V: Ted Meyer, Gianna Pinto  
Communion: Grace Bosh, Marti Ernst-Bosh, Diana & Reid Pearson  
Acolyte: Reid Pearson

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