

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We Love Jesus by Serving Others

Thanksgiving

November 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

GATHER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

OPENING HYMN: *WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD*

#870

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection, grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DAILY BREAD

P: Give us this day our daily bread.

C: Daily bread includes everything we need for this life.

P: Thanks be to God when people care.

C: Thanks be for friends and loved ones.

P: Thanks be to God for food and home.

C: Thanks be for health and laughter.

P: Thanks be to God when hatred ends.

C: Thanks be for peace and safety.

P: Give us this day our daily bread.

C: God gives us daily bread, even when we do not pray for it, even to those who do not deserve it. We ask in this prayer that God would help us to realize God's goodness, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:21-27

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A: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 126

A: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

C: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

A: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

C: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

A: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

C: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND READING: I TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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A: Word of God. Word of Life.

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.

(before reading) P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 6:25-33

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(after reading) P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON: PASTOR JOHN MITTERMAIER

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY: THIS IS MY SONG

#887

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR FAITH

A: Let us affirm our faith using Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in times of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore, I ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

(Please kneel or be seated)

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

A: Lord, we have set aside this day to remember the very many good gifts that you give to sustain life, and the abundance of gifts that you give to make life full and rich.

C: Accept our thanks for your many good gifts.

A: Lord, you have given us your Son so that we may know the true meaning of love. Because we have experienced your love, we can mirror that love back to you, to our family, to our friends, to our colleagues, and to our fellow church members.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the love that you give to us.

A: Lord, you have given us meaning and purpose in life. You have given us the responsibility to spread your love through word and deed. We give you special thanks for all of those who are using part of this day to prepare and serve food in your name to those who are hungry and homeless. We give you special thanks for those who care in your name for the sick and hurting in hospitals, nursing homes, or through home visits. We know, Lord, that as we serve others in your name, our lives are full of meaning and purpose.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the meaning and purpose that you give through our service to others.

A: Lord, one of the great needs of life is to know and feel that we belong to a caring and nurturing community. We give you thanks for the community of family and friends who laugh with us, cry with us, celebrate with us, and commiserate with us. We thank you for the community called your Church, where we are nurtured in your word and fed with your food.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the communities that you give to us.

A: Lord, we thank you for the land in which we live. We thank you for the freedom we have to worship you, to gather with our friends and neighbors, and to speak our minds when necessary. We often overlook the bounty of our land in terms of personal freedom to be the persons that you created all of us to be. We thank you for our country and all who work to make it a land of equal opportunity.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the country in which you allow us to live.

A: And now, for whom else shall we pray ... (you may offer petitions aloud or silently at this time.)

A: We thank you for all these gifts in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God our creator,

C: you give us all we are, all we have, all we bring, and all we need. Draw us together around your table with all your saints on earth and in your eternal home. Let us eat and drink your promise of new life, that we might be your promise to the world, spoken in Jesus' name. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

Christ welcomes you to the meal of the baptized! If you believe that Jesus is your Lord and Savior and is truly present in the meal, please join us at the table. Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the diagonal aisles. 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. After returning to your seat, kneeling is appropriate for offering a prayer of thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN: GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND

#891

(Please stand as you are able)

SEND

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING V. I*

#881

I Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

BENEDICTION

P: Signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are Christ's message of love for this troubled world. Our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ☩ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD*

#840

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor John Mittermaier

Assisting Minister: Ben York

Organist: John Benjamin

Sound:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Far Hills Campus

9:00 AM Contemporary Praise Worship (Outdoor Chapel)
10:30 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Austin Campus

9:00 AM Traditional Worship
10:30 AM Contemporary Praise Worship

Livestream

10:30 AM

(broadcast alternates weekly between Far Hills and Austin)

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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Epiphany Lutheran Church streams one of its worship services every Sunday,
and the videos are shared on Epiphany's website and social media channels.