

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We Love Jesus by Serving Others
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023, 10:30 AM
Austin Campus Praise Worship (Livestreamed)

Gather

OPENING SONG: *COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP*

Chorus: Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God, come

One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now (**Chorus**)

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and strength we gladly choose you now (**Chorus**)

Come, come

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: *OLIVIA ANNETTE SCHNEIDER*

*daughter of Ashley & Todd Schneider
Alissa & Bryan Effingham, sponsors*

INTRODUCTION

PRESENTATION

P: Ashley and Todd, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Olivia baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

P: ...Parents and Sponsors, do you promise to help Olivia grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsors: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Olivia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

PROFESSION

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, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: We do.

P: Do you confess your continual struggle with sin, and affirm afresh your baptismal call and identity, turning from sin and death to be forgiven and born anew in Christ?

C: We do.

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, God the Son?

**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. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

BAPTISM, PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS, ANOINTING

PRESENTATION OF A CANDLE

WELCOME

P: Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: Through baptism 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.

P: Please greet your neighbor with a sign of the peace.

Please take this time to say hello and share the peace in the comment section of the YouTube channel livestream or in the Facebook feed comment section. Take a selfie and let us know you are worshipping with us!

SONG OF PRAISE: GOODNESS OF GOD

I love you Lord, oh your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: All my life you have been faithful
All my life you have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love your voice, you have led me through the fire
In the darkest night you are close like no other
I've known you as a Father, I've known you as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God (**Chorus**)

Bridge: Your goodness is running, it's running after me
Your goodness is running, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
I give you everything
Your goodness is running, it's running after me **(Bridge) (Chorus)**

I will sing of the goodness of God

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not 7 times, but, I tell you, 77 times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *DEATH WAS ARRESTED*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus: Oh your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new, now life begins with you
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new, now life begins with you

Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom he faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and he called me his friend
When death was arrested and my life began (**Chorus**)

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began (**Chorus**)

Bridge: Oh we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free, free, forever, amen
When death was arrested and my life began (**Repeat Bridge**)

When death was arrested and my life began
When death was arrested and my life began

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

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

Meal

OFFERING: *HOLY WATER*

God I'm on my knees again
God I'm begging please again
I need you, oh I need you
Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need you, oh I need you

Chorus: Your forgiveness is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water on my skin

Dead man walking, slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need you, oh God I need you
So take me to the riverside
Take me under, baptize
I need you, oh God I need you **(Chorus)**

Bridge: I don't wanna abuse your grace
God I need it every day
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change
(Repeat Bridge) (Chorus)

It's like holy water on my skin
It's like holy water

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Please prayerfully consider giving by text or online: www.epiphanydayton.org/giveserve. You can also access GIVE+ Text instructions from the same drop-down menu or simply text the dollar amount of your contribution to 833-941-1494.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION SONG: *LORD, I NEED YOU*

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here, I find my rest
Without you, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus: Lord I need you, oh I need you
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need you

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more
Where grace is found is where you are
And where you are Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Yes where you are Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me (**Chorus**)

Bridge: So teach my song to rise to you
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you
Jesus you're my hope and stay (**Chorus 2X**)

My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need you

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *THRIVE*

Here in this worn and weary land
Where many a dream has died
Like a tree planted by the water
We will never run dry

Pre-Chorus: So living water flowing through
God we thirst for more of you
Fill our hearts and flood our souls
With one desire

Chorus: Just to know you and to make you known
We lift your name on high
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide
We know we were made for so much more
Than ordinary lives
It's time for us to more than just survive
We were made to thrive

Into your Word we're digging deep
To know our Father's heart
Into the world we're reaching out
To show them who you are **(Pre-Chorus) (Chorus)**

Bridge: Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable
Love unstoppable, anything is possible (Sing 4X) **(Chorus)**

We were made to thrive

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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please take a moment to share comments and fellowship with each other after the service is completed. The livestream will continue for a few minutes to allow for your interaction.

Scripture readings for the 17 th Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 2023: Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Bob Bresemann
Preaching Minister:	Pastor Chris Young, Hospice Chaplain Federation of Christian Ministries
Assisting Minister:	Mike Wipperman
Praise Team:	Allison Crews, Sara Donaghue, Dick Lane, Bill Norman, Thom Reitz, Anastasia Rodgers
A/V:	Sienna Pearson, Spencer Watamaniuk
Stream Team:	Scott Haligowski, Ryan Pearson
Ushers:	Diana & Reid Pearson
Communion Servers:	Grace Bosh, Marti Ernst-Bosh, Annie & Stephanie Wierwille
Acolyte:	Troy Wipperman

Parish Notes

Birth: The white rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Waylon Thomas Gariety-Hall, grandson of Christy and Tom Gariety.

Baptism: We celebrate today's baptism of Olivia Annette Schneider, daughter of Ashley & Todd Schneider, at the Austin 10:30 service.

Hospice care: Joyce Evans, Faye Wilkerson.

Sympathy to Nancy Dietrich and Kenzie Lett on the death of Fred Dietrich, and to the Grabeman family on the death of Mike Grabeman.

Funeral: The Celebration of the Resurrection for Mike Grabeman is Monday, September 18, 7 PM, at Tobias Funeral Home, 5471 Far Hills Avenue (visitation 4-7 PM).

Altar flowers in the Far Hills Sanctuary are placed by Mary & Pete Moenter in memory of Thomas Hutcheson, and by Lon & Therese Molnar in honor of their anniversary.

Pantry immediate need: Winter clothes, especially men's pants.

Community Conversation to Address Strategic Planning and Sheetz TODAY, September 17, 12 Noon, Far Hills Sanctuary

All interested parishioners are invited to join Pastor Julie and Epiphany's leadership for a Community Conversation. We will introduce the Strategic Planning process and working team that was appointed by the Congregation Council at their August meeting, as well as lay out next steps in the appeal process on the proposed Sheetz development next door at the current Elsa's site. Come bring your questions and learn what you can do to support Epiphany's ministry.

Celebrate Kathy Whited's 10th Anniversary on Staff

This month we celebrate ten years with Kathy Whited as a dedicated staff member of Epiphany! In considering what ministry to highlight in celebration of her work anniversary, Kathy said, "I picked Family Promise (formerly IHN) in honor of our son Stewart, who died in 2020 and had transitioned in and out of homelessness for several years. The homeless and hungry are close to my heart." To make a donation to Family Promise in honor of Kathy's service to Epiphany, give cash/check with "Kathy Appreciation" in the memo to the office or in the offering plate, or via our website under the Give/Serve tab.

Sunday Morning Adult Education with Dr. Larry Welborn Sundays, 9 AM, September 17-October 15, Far Hills Room 13

Professor Larry Welborn is returning to Epiphany to teach the course *Paul's Last and Greatest Letter: The Epistle to the Romans*. The course will be offered via Zoom and/or in person (when he is in Dayton). All adults and teens are welcome. Sign up on our website under the Events tab.

Women's Bible Study returns September 20 with the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. This Bible study presumes no prior experience and is co-led by Pastor Julie and group participants. Join us on the first and third Wednesdays either at 7 AM via Zoom or at 10 AM in the Far Hills Conference Room. Sign up under our website's Gather/Bible Studies tab.

Auditions for our Children's Christmas Musical, A Christmas Yarn, are Saturday, September 23 and open to ALL 1st through 8th graders. Performances are December 9-10. Learn more and sign up under our website's Events tab.

A **Welcome Lunch** will take place on Sunday, September 24, at Noon at the Far Hills Campus for anyone wanting to learn more about Epiphany, is thinking of becoming a member, or is looking for connection. Scan the QR code for more info and to RSVP for the lunch, or sign up on our website under the Events tab.



**Bible Sunday is October 1 at All Worship Services
Ages 3, 3rd Grade, and 6th Grade: Sign up by Monday, September 25**

We want to help parents and caregivers fulfill their baptismal promise to foster their children's faith formation by placing the scriptures in their children's hands. Children age three will receive a picture story Bible, third graders will receive an NRSV Spark Bible, and sixth graders will receive a Youth Bible. Sign up under the Events tab on our website.

The next monthly **Church Council meeting** is Tuesday, September 26, 7 PM in the Far Hills Conference Room. All church members are welcome to attend.

Silent Loss Seminar and Service: A seminar on silent loss will take place on Wednesday, September 27, 7 PM at the Austin Campus, and is open to the community. This class focuses on the unique grief of death due to stillbirth, miscarriage, SIDS, failed adoption, and infertility. A silent loss service will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 7 PM at the Austin Campus.

ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Deadline October 1

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans on July 14-21. Students entering grades 8-12 this fall are eligible to attend. Scan the QR code to find info about preparation, fundraising, transportation plans, and more!



Sunday School returns to the Far Hills Campus on October 1 for children ages 3 through 5th grade. More details coming soon.

Family Promise Week of Service: Sign up by October 4

Epiphany's next week of service to prepare meals for Family Promise (formerly IHN) is October 8-14. Please consider preparing a meal for homeless families in transition. This is an excellent opportunity for small groups to serve together. For more info and to sign up, go to the Events tab on our website.

The **Associate Pastor Call Committee** has been meeting weekly. While they cannot provide specifics due to the confidential nature of the process, they will be sharing information regularly. We invite you to support the process with your prayers for the Call Committee, the Southern Ohio Synod, and Pastor Julie.

The **Far Hills office will be closed on Fridays**, for the time being, starting September 22.

Outdoor Service: The Far Hills 9 AM service continues outdoors through September 24. Worship returns to the indoor sanctuary on October 1.

Parish Notes and other communications requests may be submitted to Sarah Richter, Communications Coordinator (srichter@epiphanydayton.org.)

Let Us Pray for You

We want to know when you're hospitalized and when you have a life event, such as a birth, marriage, death in the family, etc. If you have a prayer request, please scan the QR code to reach our online prayer request form or contact the church office (937-433-1449) or prayer@epiphanydayton.org.



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Far Hills Campus

6430 Far Hills Ave.
Dayton, OH 45459
(937) 433-1449

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

Austin Campus

10551 Sheehan Rd.
Dayton, OH 45458
(937) 886-9885

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

www.epiphanydayton.org

10:30 AM Livestream

(Broadcast alternates weekly between Far Hills and Austin)

Welcome Guests!

We want to get to know you! If you are a first-time or returning guest, please scan the QR code to reach our online Connection Card or fill out a card located at the usher table as you enter the Sanctuary.

Next steps: Become a part of the Epiphany family by attending regularly, and get involved by coming to one of our events or helping one of our many ministries. We invite you to see where *loving Jesus by serving others* might lead you. Our pastors and staff are always available to help you find ways to get connected in service and fellowship.

For more info or questions, please ask our campus coordinators, Jennifer Henderson (Far Hills) or Brittany Albert (Austin), or contact the church office. Thanks again for joining us today!



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

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