

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We Love Jesus by Serving Others
25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023, 10:30 AM
Far Hills Campus Traditional Worship (Livestreamed)

Gather

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT: CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Caitlin Krueger-Meyer

PRELUDE: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (arr. Douglas Wagner)

Jubilate Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

(silence for reflection)

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

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 worshiping with us!



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 1:7,12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: FROM PSALM 90

A: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

C: **From age to age you are God.**

A: You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

C: **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.**

A: For we are consumed by your anger;

C: **we are afraid because of your wrath.**

A: Our iniquities you have set before you;

C: **our secret sins are in the light of your countenance.**

A: So teach us to number our days,

C: **let us apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

(continued)

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (w. 1,3)

#678



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

**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.**

**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.**

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

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M e a l

Please prayerfully consider giving by text or online: www.epiphanydayton.org/giveserve.

OFFERING: SET ME AS A SEAL

Epiphany Chorale

*Set me as a seal upon your heart
As a seal upon your arm
For love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love
Neither can the floods drown it.*

Text: Song of Solomon 8:6-7, Music: René Clausen.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
 Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

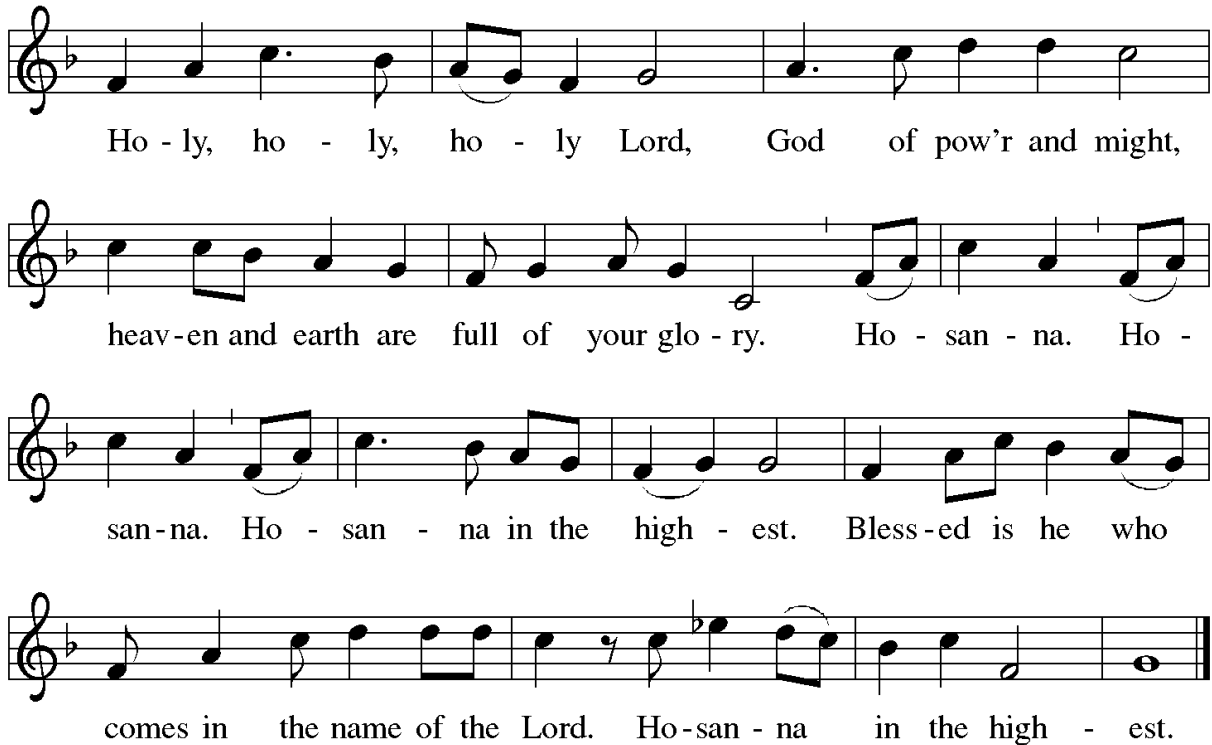
OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING (arr. Peter Hilliard)

Andy Lewis, cello

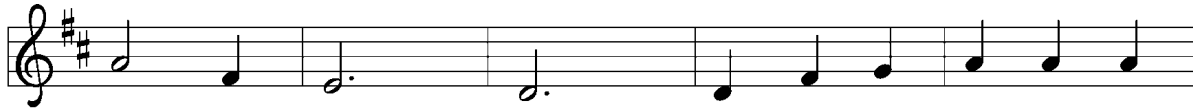
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

SENDING

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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 Christ the King, November 26, 2023:
 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister:	Melonie June Warren
Organist:	John Benjamin
Sound:	Ed Wasser
Stream Team:	Anthony Brown, Alex Wasser
Ushers:	David Huber, John Venis
Communion Servers:	Lisa Miller, Charlotte & Sam Richard, Verity Snyder, RoseAnn Venis

Parish Notes

Birth: The white rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Walter James Swanson, son of Amanda & Jim Swanson and grandson of Lori & Scott Watamaniuk.

Recently hospitalized: Cynthia Huxtable, Ray Vance.

Receiving palliative hospice care: Joyce Evans.

Altar flowers in the Far Hills Sanctuary are placed by Diane Chance in memory of Dave's birthday, and by Rose Wasky in honor of Ray's birthday.

Pantry immediate need: Kids winter clothes, especially boys sizes 10 & up.

Children's Sunday School at Far Hills: The next and final session this fall is December 3. Stay tuned for more classes in January!

Building the Body of Christ: Stewardship Appeal 2024

Thank you to all who responded by Commitment Sunday to our Stewardship Appeal by making the commitment to help us reach our 2024 financial goal. We invite those who have not yet responded to please do so online under Give/Serve > 2024 Giving Intent Form or via the offering plate. Pledge cards are available at the usher tables. Your giving statement of intent, combined with our other donors, helps us to plan with confidence for the year ahead, which includes ✓calling an associate pastor, ✓rebuilding our children's ministry, and ✓welcoming the community. Your response matters!

Thanksgiving Service and Pie Fest

Tuesday, November 21, 7 PM, Far Hills Sanctuary

Thanksgiving offering directed to Epiphany's Pantry

Invite friends and family to join us for worship at 7 PM, followed by fellowship with coffee and dessert in the Celebration Center! Please bring a pre-cut pie or other dessert to share and drop it off before worship in the CC.

Advent begins December 3! Your bulletin insert lists everything happening this season. Please take it with you and put it on your refrigerator – or even better – give it to a friend and invite them to join us!

Help Decorate Our Worship Spaces for Advent

Austin Campus: TODAY after the 10:30 AM service

Contact Brittany Albert (balbert@epiphanydayton.org)

Far Hills Campus: Friday, December 1, beginning at 9 AM

Contact Michelle Carlson, Liturgical Arts Team (kdmcarlson@sbcglobal.net)

**Young at Heart Christmas Dinner: Reservation Deadline November 29
Sunday, December 10, 6 PM, Bethany Village, Serr Grand Room**

The Young at Heart Ministry invites those age 55 and better to a Christmas dinner party! The meal is provided by Epiphany member Molly McConnell from Little Miami River Catering, with entertainment provided by Epiphany member Todd Armstrong and his barbershop quartet. Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations due by November 29 in order to attend, with payment required upon making your reservation. Sign up online under the Events tab, or see a ministry representative between services at either campus. Please direct questions to event coordinator Jane Lane (lanedickjane@gmail.com).

**Celebrate John Benjamin's 25th Anniversary on Staff
Reception: Sunday, November 26, 11:30 AM, FH Celebration Center**

Last month marked 25 years for John Benjamin as a staff member at Epiphany! He began as the organist and Chorale accompanist, and is now the Director of Traditional Worship as well as Chorale. His varied talents include working with cantors and instrumentalists, selecting the worship music, and playing for weddings. You might have also seen him participating in our dramas, whether on-stage, in the band, or as the music director.

In John's words: *"When Martha, the kids, and I arrived in Centerville in 1998, my mom was thrilled that we were back in Ohio, and that I didn't have a church job to prevent us from visiting her on the weekends. Little did I know then that I would find a congregation like Epiphany that, as God would have it, needed me. By Reformation Sunday that year, I had a church job (sorry, Mom!) and I have been blessed to serve God and the people of Epiphany Lutheran Church for these 25 years. One of the great joys for me as a musician is making music with others. I do that every weekend with YOU all singing with gusto from the pews. On numerous occasions, I do that with wonderful guest musicians in worship. I would be honored if you would contribute to the music ministry to continue to make these collaborative opportunities possible."*

To donate to our music ministry in honor of John's years of service to Epiphany, please give cash/check with "John's 25th" in the memo to the office or in the offering plate, or give online under the Give/Serve tab and specify "Gift in Honor of > John Benjamin's 25th Anniversary." Everyone is also invited to a reception in John's honor on Sunday, November 26, after the 10:30 AM worship service!

Adopt-a-Family: In-person sign-ups in the Gathering Space

Each year Epiphany provides gifts and holiday meals for those in need. Working with social service agencies, we identify families who can use an extra blessing for the holidays. Epiphany families and small groups adopt these families and shop, wrap, and deliver the gifts to the Far Hills Celebration Center. The gifts are picked up by social workers and delivered along with a frozen turkey and non-perishable holiday staples we provide. For more info and to sign up online, scan the QR code or visit the Events tab on our website. Questions can be sent to adoptafamily@epiphanydayton.org or contact Marti and Mark Bosh at 937-478-8042.



Night at the Movies: December 1, 6-8 PM, Far Hills Flag Room

Members of all ages are invited. We'll enjoy a PG-rated Christmas movie on our large-screen TV. Snacks will be provided; you're welcome to bring your own dinner. Chairs will be provided, but you're welcome to bring camp chairs, pillows, blankets, and whatever would make for a comfortable viewing experience. Wondering which movie will be shown? You'll have to show up to find out (or contact the church office). For questions, contact Pam Lubbers (pammy466@aol.com).

Children's Christmas Musical: A Christmas Yarn

Sensory Friendly Performance: Saturday, December 2, Far Hills Celebration Center

This dress rehearsal will modify lighting, sound, and seating and provide an opportunity for those with autism, learning disabilities, and sensory or communication limitations to enjoy the event in a safe place. For details and to make a reservation, contact Lori Embry (937-902-0141).

Thanksgiving Holiday: The church buildings will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23-24.

The next monthly **Church Council meeting** is Tuesday, November 28, 7 PM in the Far Hills Conference Room. All church members are welcome to attend. Meeting minutes can be found in the Far Hills Library.

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
(Sanctuary)
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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