

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We Love Jesus by Serving Others

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024, 7 PM

Far Hills Campus Traditional Worship (Livestreamed)

Gather

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QUIET TIME FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: *OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED*

#606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reconciling 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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#### FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,

and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSIVE READING: FROM PSALM 51

A: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

C: **in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

A: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

C: **For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.**

A: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

C: **you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

A: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

A: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C: **wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

- A: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
**C: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.**  
A: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
**C: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**  
A: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
**C: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.**  
A: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
**C: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
A: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
**C: You are not pleased with burnt offering.**  
A: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
**C: a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20–6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

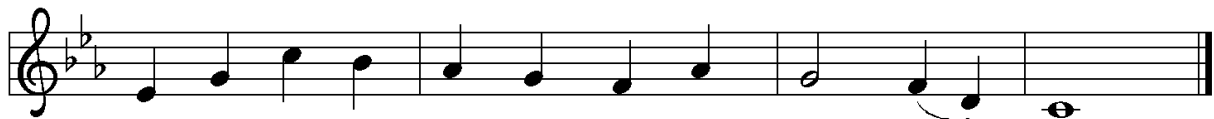
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

- A: The word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

*[Jesus said to the disciples:]* <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

<sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

<sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**HOMILY**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

**INVITATION TO LENT**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C:** Amen.

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

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- P: Most holy and merciful God,  
**C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**
- P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

- P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
 May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

#### **MUSIC: O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED**

- P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**
- P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**
- P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
**C: Amen.**

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

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

**Meal**

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Please prayerfully consider giving by text or online: [www.epiphanydayton.org/giveserve](http://www.epiphanydayton.org/giveserve).

**OFFERING:** I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME (arr. Larry Shackley)

Epiphany Chorale

**OFFERTORY:** CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

#186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe...

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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

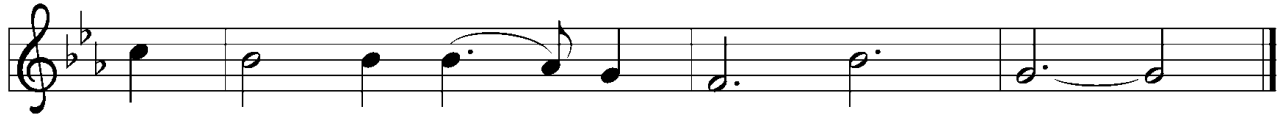
*If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Send

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**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: BLESS THE LORD (Refrain – All, Verses – Cantor)**

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a closing hymn. The first system is for the refrain: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name." The second system, starting with a measure rest (5), is for the verse: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." Both systems feature a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*Glory to God 544*

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984; © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

MUSIC (BLESS THE LORD (Taizé), Irregular): Jacques Berthier, 1984; © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

**SENDING**

**A:** Go in peace. Share your bread.

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

Scripture readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024:  
Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, I Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Preaching Minister:	Pastor Heidi Johns
Assisting Minister:	Melonie June Warren
Organist:	John Benjamin
Cantor:	(12) Linda June Snyder
Sound:	(7) Todd Schluter
Stream Team:	Scott Haligowski, Ryan Pearson
Ushers:	(12) Sue Ehrensberger, Jennifer Henderson (7) Dean Erskine, Landon Henderson
Communion Servers:	(12) Lon & Sandy Czewski (7) Michelle Carlson, Jennifer Henderson, Sandy Houpt

## Parish Notes

**Receiving hospice care:** Joyce Evans (palliative), David Handlir, Brian Peltomaa.

**The eternal flame** is lit this month by Ray and Rose Wasky for victims of wars.

**Pantry immediate need:** Kids' winter clothing sizes 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12.

### **Your Input Matters! Community Conversation**

#### **Next Sunday, February 18, 12 Noon, Austin Campus**

Epiphany worshippers, our church leaders desire your input into the decision-making regarding a recommendation to help reduce or eliminate our mortgage debt. Accordingly, you are invited to a Community Conversation next Sunday, February 18 at the Austin Campus to share more fully the thinking so far and hear your thoughts regarding the path forward. The Congregation Council will take the ideas raised into consideration as they make a recommendation to the congregation later this spring.

### **Lent Schedule**

- Wednesdays in Lent join us for **Soup, Singing, & Saints**, 6:00-7:30 PM in the Celebration Center. Each week will begin with a simple soup supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer, with themes for each week built around the commemoration of saints in the Lutheran calendar.
- Sign up to bring soup or mac & cheese or to help with setup and hosting on the poster in the Far Hills Narthex or by scanning the QR code. If not bringing an entrée, please bring a salad, bread, side dish, or dessert to share.
- We will be putting together Pantry Care Packages as a congregation-wide **Lenten service project** again this year. First up on February 14 is laundry detergent (no pods). Donations may be made anytime to the bins at both campuses. You may also make a monetary donation via the Give/Serve tab on our website by choosing *Lenten Pantry Care Packages* in the Fund dropdown menu, or by check with *Lent Project* in the memo line.



Complete info on our Lenten activities is in your weekly e-newsletter.

### **Tenzi Tournament: Return of the Tenz!**

#### **Saturday, February 24, 6:30-8:00 PM, Far Hills Celebration Center**

Join us for an evening of fun and competition at our next Tenzi tournament! All proceeds go towards supporting the youth attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Whether you're a seasoned Tenzi player or brand new to the game, everyone is welcome! Bring your family and friends for an evening of laughter, community, and friendly competition. Cost is \$10 per player in advance or \$15 at the door. *Get your advanced tickets by February 22* to help us plan: [www.epiphanydayton.org/tenzi](http://www.epiphanydayton.org/tenzi). New! Return of the Tenz! will include a kids-only area, some added tournament-style play, bonus rounds for an additional buy-in, and more as we switch things up for more fun! If you joined us in January, you'll want to join us again. And if you missed it in January, you don't want to miss this one!

### **Day of Caring Pancake Brunch**

#### **Sunday, February 25, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM, Far Hills Campus**

Our annual participation in the Day of Caring supports local food pantries and homeless shelters. Complete info is on our website under the Events tab.

- Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors/kids under 12 and are available for purchase online, between worship services at both campuses, or at the door.
- Sign up online to bring an egg casserole or to help in a variety of roles, including jobs for youth!
- You may also drop off personal hygiene donations at both campuses February 4-25. See the list of items needed online.

Questions? Contact Sharon Bond ([sharonbond@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonbond@hotmail.com)).

**Sunday School Helpers Needed:** Make a difference in the life of Epiphany children! Classes continue at the Far Hills Campus for children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Click the Gather tab on our website to get to the Children's Ministry page for a full schedule. We also need youth (12+) and adult volunteers to help with the classes. Scan the QR code to sign up or visit the website under Give/Serve/Sunday School Helpers. For more info contact Caitlin Krueger-Meyer, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator (ckrueger-meyer@epiphanydayton.org).



New date: The next monthly **Church Council** meeting is Monday, February 26, 7 PM at the Far Hills Campus. All church members are welcome to attend.

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  
10:30 AM Traditional Worship

## Austin Campus

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

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

[www.epiphanydayton.org](http://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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