

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Loving Jesus by Serving Others

14th Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 2024

Praise Worship

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

Gather

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING SONG: THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for your strength
And my story isn't over, my story's just begun
And failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does
Yeah failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does

Chorus: Lay your burdens down here in the Father's house
Check your shame at the door 'cause it ain't welcome anymore
You're in the Father's house

Arrival's not the endgame, the journey's where you are
You never wanted perfect, you just wanted my heart
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good
And failure's never final when the Father's in the room
And failure's never final when the Father's in the room **(Chorus)**

Bridge: Prodigals come home, the helpless find hope
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room
Prison doors fling wide, the dead come to life
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room

Miracles take place, the cynical find faith
And love is breaking through when the Father's in the room
Jericho walls are quaking, strongholds now are shaking
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room
(Chorus 2X)

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(Please be seated)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(silence for reflection)

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God...in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

(Greet your neighbor with a sign of peace)

SONG OF PRAISE: MY JESUS

Are you past the point of weary, is your burden weighing heavy
Is it all too much to carry, let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
Do you feel that empty feeling 'cause shame's done all its stealing
And you're desperate for some healing, let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

Chorus: He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that he can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
His love is strong and his grace is free
And the good news is I know that he
Can do for you what he's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, amen, amen

Who can wipe away the tears from broken dreams and wasted years
And tell the past to disappear, let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And all the wrong turns that you would go and undo if you could
Who can work it all for your good, let me tell you 'bout my Jesus **(Chorus)**

Who would take my cross to Calvary, pay the price for all my guilty
Who would care that much about me, let me tell you 'bout my Jesus **(Chorus)**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Let my Jesus change your life

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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

W o r d

(Please be seated)

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: JOSHUA 24:1-2,14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able)

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.**

SONG OF THE DAY: *YOUR GRACE FINDS ME*

It's there in the newborn cry
There in the light of every sunrise
There in the shadows of this light
Your great grace

It's there on the mountain top
There in the everyday and the mundane
There in the sorrow and the dancing
Your great grace, oh such grace

Chorus: From the creation to the cross
There from the cross into eternity
Your grace finds me, yes your grace finds me

It's there on a wedding day
There in the weeping by the graveside
There in the very breath we breathe
Your great grace

The same for the rich and poor
The same for the saint and for the sinner
Enough for this whole wide world
Your great grace, oh such grace (**Chorus**)

Chorus2: There in the darkest night of the soul
There in the sweetest songs of victory
Your grace finds me, yes your grace finds me

Your great grace, oh such grace (2X)

Ending: So I'm breathing in your grace
And breathing out your praise
I'm breathing in your grace

Forever I'll be breathing in your grace
And breathing out your praise
I'm breathing in your grace (Sing 3X)

Forever God, forever God
Your grace finds me, yes your grace finds me

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(Please be seated)

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

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

OFFERING: WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me
I was lost but he brought me in
Oh his love for me, oh his love for me

Chorus: Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Free at last he has ransomed me, his grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me, yes he died for me (**Chorus**)

Chorus2: In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Bridge: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who you say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who you say I am (*Repeat*)

I am who you say I am (**Chorus**) (**Chorus2**)

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(Please stand as you are able)

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.**

(Please be seated)

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. There is a station at the rear of the pews for those seated in the grass. 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: JESUS PAID IT ALL

I hear the Savior say thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray, find in me thine all in all

Chorus: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone **(Chorus)**

And when before the throne I stand in him complete
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat **(Chorus)**

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(Please stand as you are able)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

S e n d

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: COUNTING EVERY BLESSING

I was blind now I'm seeing in colour
I was dead now I'm living forever
I had failed but you were my Redeemer
I've been blessed beyond all measure

I was lost now I'm found by the Father
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure
I've been given a hope and a future
I've been blessed beyond all measure

Chorus: I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me

Oh you are good to me (2X)

You were there in the valley of shadows
You were there in the depth of my sorrows
You're my strength my hope for tomorrow
I've been blessed beyond all measure (**Chorus**)

Oh you are good to me (2X)

Bridge: Surely your goodness pursues me
Surely your heart is still for me
I will remember your mercies all my days
Through every storm and gale (**Chorus 2X**)

Oh you are good to me (4X)

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SENDING

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture readings for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 2024:
Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Mark Chilson
Praise Team: Doug Day, Al Grodrian, Craig Hoerig, Mary Miller,
Thom Reitz, Anastasia Rodgers, Scott Watamaniuk
Sound: Ed Wasser
Ushers: George Downs, Chris Ziehler
Communion Servers: Debbie & Jon Hauberg, Jennifer Henderson, Kelly & Troy Stoller

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Bob Bresemann
Preaching Minister: Pastor Chris Young, Hospice Chaplain
Federation of Christian Ministries
Assisting Minister: Billy Heaning
Praise Team: Doug Day, Al Grodrian, Craig Hoerig, Mary Miller,
Thom Reitz, Anastasia Rodgers, Scott Watamaniuk
A/V: Ed Wasser, Owen Smith
Stream Team: Anthony Brown, Scott Haligowski
Usher: Todd Schluter
Communion Servers: Dean & Sara Donaghue