

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Loving Jesus by Serving Others

17th Sunday after Pentecost, September 15, 2024

Praise Worship

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

Gather

GATHERING SONG: *HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

(silence for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: 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.

SONG OF PRAISE: *BLESSED ASSURANCE*

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

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-9

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⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:1-12

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¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue— a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: MARK 8:27–38

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²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: HOLY FOREVER

INSTALLATION OF CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

(when directed...)

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

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

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M e a l

OFFERING: HOLY WATER

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.

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: *HERE'S MY HEART*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: *I'M SO BLESSED*

SENDING

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture readings for the 18 th Sunday after Pentecost, September 22, 2024: Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13-4:8, Mark 9:30-37
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Serving in Worship

Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister: Jane Lane
Praise Team: Bob Gray, Ned Greene, Emily Hendrickson,
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Bill Norman, Scott Watamaniuk
Sound: Spencer Watamaniuk
Ushers: Beth Fischer, Angi Moots
Communion Servers: Erich Biermann, John & Lisa Dietrich, Lori Embry,
Jennifer Henderson

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Drew Tucker, Executive Director
HopeWood Outdoors
(ELCA Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio)
Assisting Minister: Candy Norman
Praise Team: Bob Gray, Ned Greene, Emily Hendrickson,
Dick Lane, Mary Miller, Bill Norman, Scott Watamaniuk
A/V: Spencer Watamaniuk, Gia Pinto
Ushers: Jill Frost, Dale Rethlake
Communion Servers: Sharon Culham, Ben, Erin & Sam Haligowski