



WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10

FEBRUARY 22, 2026



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The wilderness is not just a place Jesus enters—it's a place that reveals what he longs for. Forty days without distraction strip everything down to the bare truth: he is hungry, vulnerable, and exposed. And it's precisely there that the devil offers him a version of wholeness that looks good on the surface. Turn stones into bread. Have the angels catch you. Claim all the kingdoms. It's the temptation to believe that wholeness can be manufactured—through acclaim, spectacle, control, or dominance. But Jesus refuses each offer because none of them actually heal. None of them restore. None of them draw him deeper into God's life.

PRELUDE

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

Silence For Reflection

A: Gracious God,

C: we confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us. We have knowingly believed dishonest words. We have questioned your gracious power again and again. We have given into temptation. We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart. In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us back to you. Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

A: Friends, beloved of God, Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him. In the name of ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.

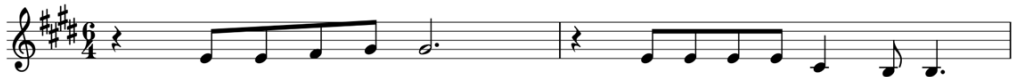
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OPENING SONG

For Everyone Born

Words by Shirley Erena Murray, Music by Brian Mann



For ev - erv - one born.
For gen - ders di - verse,
 For just and un - just.
Ex - pres - sions of love,
 For ev - ery - one born,

a place at the ta - ble,
 a place at the ta - ble,
 a place at the ta - ble,
di - verse as the rain - bow,
 a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a - bus - er, a - bus - ed, with need to for - give,
 a cov - en - ant shared, a wel - com - ing space,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - erv - one born. a star o - ver - head.
for gen - ders di - verse, a sys - tem that's fair. Refrain
 for just and un - just, a new way to live.
 for gay and for straight, the cha - lice of grace. Refrain
 for ev - ery - one born. the right to be free. Refrain



Refrain
 God wil de - light when we are cre - a - tors of just - ice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of just - ice,



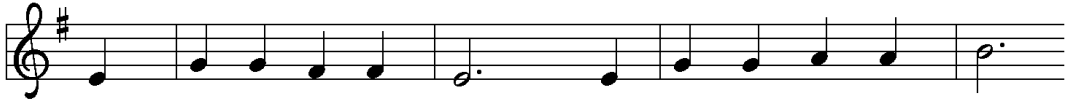
just - ice and joy.

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.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God our Creator,

C: we long for wholeness in our hearts and in our lives. When we are tempted by quick fixes or twisted promises, remind us that true sustenance, protection, and power is found only in you. Lead us by your Spirit to rest confidently in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE WORD

The B-I-B-L-E

Verse 1

The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

Verse 2

The B-I-B-L-E,
I take along with me
I read and pray and then obey
The B-I-B-L-E.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

A RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)

L: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C: Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

L: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

C: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

L: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

L: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

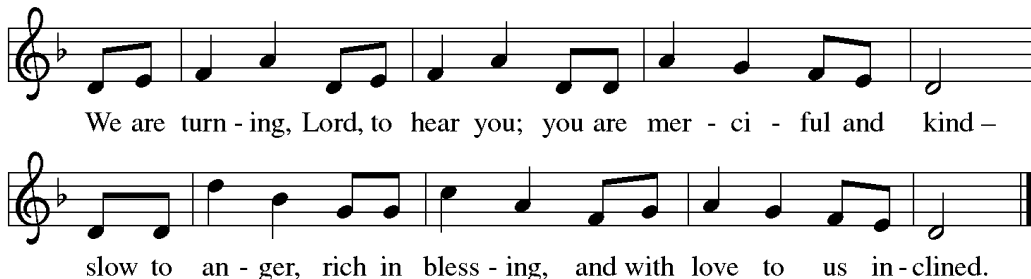
C: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

L: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 4:1-11

(Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Matthew, beginning in the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

MOMENT OF REFLECTION ON THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN OF THE DAY

Yet Not I but Through Christ In Me

♩ = 75 **INTRO**



1. What gift of
- (2. The night is)
- (3. No fate I)
- (4. With ev - 'ry)

5

VERSE



grace is Je - sus, my Re - deem - er. There is no more for heav - en now to
dark, but I am not for - sak - en, for by my side the Sav - iour, he will
dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture sure, the price, it has been
breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for he has said that he will bring me



give. He is my joy, my right - eous - ness and free - dom, my stead - fast
stay. I lab - our on in weak - ness and re - joic - ing, for in my
paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my par - don, and he was
home. And day by day I know he will re - new me un - til I



love, my deep and bound - less peace. _____ To this I hold: my hope is on - ly
need, his pow - er is dis - played. _____ To this I hold: my Shep - herd will de -
raised to o - ver - throw the grave. _____ To this I hold: my sin has been de -
stand with joy be - fore the throne. _____ To this I hold: my hope is on - ly



Je - sus. For my life is whol - ly bound to his. _____ Oh how
- fend me. Through the deep - est val - ly he will lead. _____ Oh the
- feat - ed. Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my plea. _____ Oh the
Je - sus. All the glo - ry ev - er - more to him. _____ When the

1, 2, 3.



strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
night has been won, and I shall o - ver - come! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not I, but through Christ in



4.

2. The night is me. When the
3. No fate I
4. With ev - 'ry

ENDING

race is com-plete, still my lips shall re-peat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me. Yet not

OUTRO

I, but through Christ in me.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude:

A: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.



THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of majesty,

C: you meet us at this table with Christ's body and blood that we might rejoice together in the bread you provide and never be thirsty again. Let us enter into the world as signs of your unbound presence, seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God, and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles. **Communion is by intinction.** We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.

Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



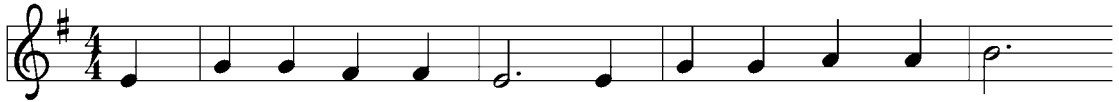
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

Lord Jesus, Think on Me (ELW 599)



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.



THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God's grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love, and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life. May the Holy Trinity, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

We Belong to Each Other

Refrain

Refrain

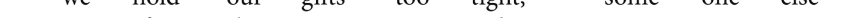
The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), indicating D major or B minor. The time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of eighth notes and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are aligned with the notes: "We be - long, we be - long, we be - long to each-oth-er."

We be - long, we be - long, we be - long to each-oth-er.


I am strong, you are strong; we are stronger to - geth-er.

Verses

Verses



Each of us has gifts to share, there is plen - ty to
If we hold our gifts too tight, some - one else will be
Near or far, I'm on your side; we are part of God's



God makes sure we are found. *to Refrain*
take the time to be kind.
tied to - geth - er yet free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: What if Jesus had said "Yes" to any of the devil's temptations? Instead of being divided from God, Jesus leaned even further into the relationship that leads to wholeness, his connection with God. Jesus didn't follow after any of the tempts, but we know we have. Thank goodness for grace. As we strive to be perfect, as God is perfect, may we also celebrate God's gifts of grace and forgiveness. May we share this good news with those who are yet to hear it. We share this story until...

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

A: Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.

*** Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to communications@epiphanysuwanee.org.*



What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness.

Sundays & Holy Week

Lent 1 (February 22) - Longing for Wholeness - Matthew 4:1-11

Lent 2 (March 1) - Longing for Mystery - John 3:1-17

Lent 3 (March 8) - Longing for Relationship - John 4:5-42

Lent 4 (March 15) - Longing for Community - John 9:1-41

Lent 5 (March 22) - Longing for Authenticity - John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday (March 29) - Longing for Courage - Matthew 21:1-11

Maundy Thursday (April 2) - Longing for Intimacy - John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday (April 3) - Longing for Solidarity - John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday (April 5) - Longing for New Life - John 20:1-18

Midweek Café Church Series

Week 1: February 25 - Bound by Jealousy - Genesis 37:3-11

Week 2: March 4 - Bound by Violence - Genesis 37:12-36

Week 3: March 11 - Bound by Dishonest Systems - Genesis 39:1-20

Week 4: March 18 - Bound by Family - Genesis 41 and 42

Week 5: March 25 - Bound by Guilt - Genesis 50:15-21



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God

Pastor: Chris Hermansen

Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola

Director of Worship and Music: Steve Belfield, Interim

Worship Production: Steve Belfield

Worship Accompanist: Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

Copyrights

For Everyone Born

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann

Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2000 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

Kyrie

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (CCLI)

Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

© 2018 CityAlight Music; Farren Love And War Publishing;

Integrity's Alleluia! Music

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Lamb of God

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

Lord Jesus, Think on Me (ELW 599)

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

Music: W. Daman, The Psalmes of Dauid, 1579, alt. Public Domain

We Belong to Each Other

© Foundry Hymnal (Andy and Rev. Elise Pokel), 2025. All rights reserved. Use by permission.

OneLicense A-701882
CCLI License #2933416

Financial Giving Options



- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

1350 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Suwanee, GA 30024
(770) 831-1966 ~ info@epiphanysuwanee.org
www.epiphanysuwanee.org