



Wholeness is never an individual pursuit; it is something we discover in relationship, in being met by grace where we least expect it.

REV. DR. MIHEE KIM-KORT

MARCH 8, 2026



UNBOUND
Longing for Wholeness



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The Samaritan woman comes to the well at noon because she has learned to protect herself. She knows what it feels like to be discarded—by relationships, by community, by the quiet and not-so-quiet judgments that have followed her for years. She is longing for something deeper than water. She is longing to be seen, known, and treated as someone whose life still has dignity. When Jesus meets her there, he does not turn away from her story; he enters into it. Rather than avoiding her or rehashing her failures, he speaks to her with a tenderness that reveals he has already seen the truth of her life—and is not ashamed to be in relationship with her.

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

Here I Am to Worship
Words & Music by Tim Hughes

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus / Bridge 2x / Chorus 3x / End

Chorus

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

End

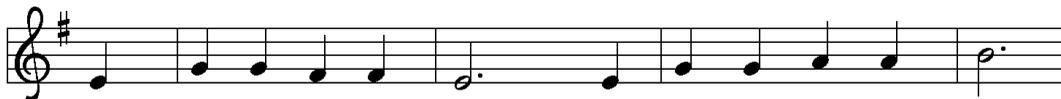
Here I am to worship
Here I am to worship

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 of spirit and truth,

C: We thirst to know and to be known, no longer fragmented but whole. We are bound by believing we cannot share anything in common. Stay with us and reveal our shared longings, that we might rejoice together. For you are the one we seek, the one we ask others to come and see. 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

A RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

L: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

L: For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C: In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

L: The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

L: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

C: "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

L: There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

C: Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

L: Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.' "

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE GOSPEL READING

JOHN 4:5-42

(Congregation standing)

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying

to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN OF THE DAY

For All the Faithful Women (ELW 419)

Verse

For all the faith - ful wom - en
 Re - call the the out - cast wom - an
 All praise to God the Fa - - ther!

who served in our days of con - old,
 with whom our to Lord Christ the - versed:
 All praise to Christ the Son!

to you shall thanks be giv - - en;
 Christ gave her liv - ing wat - er
 All praise to God the Spir - it,

to all, their stor - y told.
 to who quench her deep - est thirst.
 who binds the church as one!

They served with strength and glad - - ness
 Like hers, our hearts are year - - ing;
 With saints who went be - fore us,

in Christ tasks - your wis - dom gave.
 with of saints - fers us his word.
 still, still,

To you their lives bore wit - - ness,
 Then may sing our glad lips be burn - ing
 we sing glad al - le - lu - - ias

pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
 to and wit - ness to do our Lord.
 and strive to do your will.

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world
and its needs.

Each petition shall conclude with:

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

The Prayers conclude:

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

ALL-GEORGIA RECAP

Youth



THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

We Belong to Each Other

Refrain

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

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

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

go a - round. When we're lone - ly, lost, and scared,
left be - hind. Give, for - give, and shine your light;
fam - il - y. I am yours and you are mine,

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

THE OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



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



bles-sing. 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: We pray together.

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING DURING COMMUNION

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 HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (ELW 335)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: The woman at the well never thought she would have a life-changing experience the day she met Jesus. That encounter allowed her to shed her shame and reunite with her community in faith. In our day to day lives we might not expect to have such an encounter either, but it could happen! May we be ready to encounter Jesus in everything that we do, and to be that encounter for others 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 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 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

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Kyrie

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

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Gospel Acclamation

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

For All the Faithful Women (ELW 419)

Text: Herman Stuempfle Jr. 1923–2007

Music: English Folk Tune

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Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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

Lamb of God

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

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We Belong to Each Other

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Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (ELW 335)

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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Liturgical Elements—Unbound: Lent to Go Vol 5(2026)

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- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

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