

AUGUST 17, 2025



# TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today's music traces a path from '**holy fire to faithful focus**'. We begin with Vangelis's iconic *Chariots of Fire*, a sound-world of steady stride and radiant lift that sets Hebrews' call to "run with perseverance" in our ears. We ask the '**Spirit's purifying presence**' to descend and send us, then sing trust in God's sometimes '**mysterious**' providence. Bach's C-minor Prelude and Fugue gives disciplined momentum to our offering. At Communion, *Come Down, O Love Divine* prays for flame that refines desire, and we go forth beholding the enthroned Lord—eyes fixed on Jesus—ready to bear the '**costly, cleansing**' fire Christ brings.

## PRELUDE

## Chariots of Fire (from Chariots of Fire)

by VANGELIS Arranged by: Francesco Parrino  
Anna Keiserman, Solo Piano

Greek composer **Vangelis** wrote the 1981, Academy Award-winning score whose buoyant, pulsing theme has come to symbolize endurance and purpose—an apt prelude to **Hebrews 12's** "race set before us." This piano arrangement by Francesco Parrino distills the synth-led theme into a singable, luminous keyboard lyric, keeping the sense of forward stride. Use it to frame the day's movement from call to perseverance.

## THE GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING SONG

## O Spirit of the Living God

Tweedy's Pentecost text (first published 1935) prays for '**fire, wind, and speech**'—language that dovetails with **Jeremiah's** "word like fire" and readies us to witness with clarity amid division (Luke 12). The folk tune '**FOREST GREEN**'—an English melody collected/arranged by **Ralph Vaughan Williams** for *The English Hymnal* (1906)—gives the petition a warm, communal lift. Sing it as our congregational "Come, Holy Spirit."



1. O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, thou  
2. Blow, wind of God! With wis - dom blow un -  
3. Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of  
4. So shall we know the power of Christ who



light and fire di - vine, de - scend up - on thy  
til our minds are free from mists of er - ror,  
truth which all may hear, the lan - guage all may  
came this world to save; so shall we rise with



church once more, and make it tru - ly thine.  
clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.  
un - der - stand when love speaks loud and clear;  
him to life which soars be - yond the grave;



Fill it with love and joy and power, with  
 Burn, wing - ed fire! In - spire our lips with  
 till ev - ery age and race and clime shall  
 and earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which

righ - teous - ness and peace; till Christ shall dwell in  
 flam - ing love and zeal, to preach to all thy  
 blend their creeds in one, and earth shall form one  
 makes thy chil - dren whole; till, per - fect - ed by

hu - man hearts, and sin and sor - row cease.  
 great good news, God's glo - rious com - mon - weal.  
 fam - i - ly by whom thy will is done.  
 thee, we reach cre - a - tion's glo - rious goal!

## ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: We are gathered together in the name of God the Creator, God the Son, and † God the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

A: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence For Reflection*

A: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

A: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of † Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: Amen.**

## 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

P: Let us pray together,

**C: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

# THE WORD

## I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

I am a C  
I am a C-H  
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N  
(Woo hoo!)  
And I have C-H-R-I-S-T  
In my H-E-A-R-T  
And I will L-I-V-E  
E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y

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## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### A READING FROM

### JEREMIAH 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who

prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

## A READING FROM

## HEBREWS 11:29 - 12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

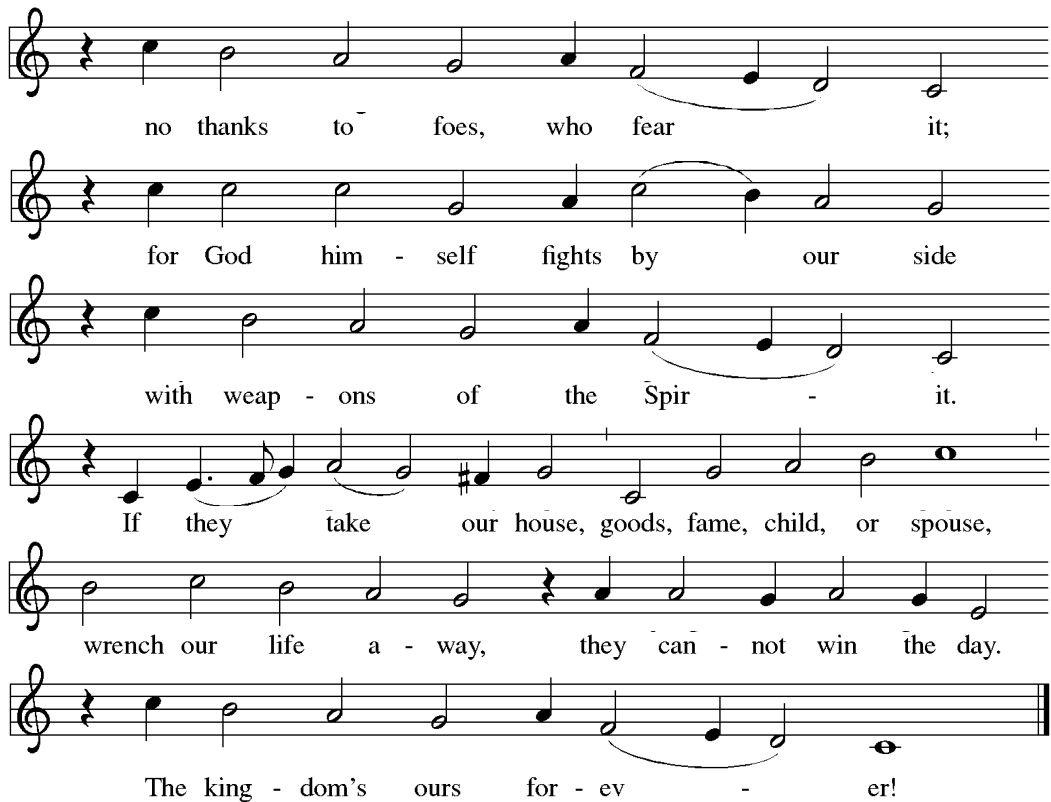
L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God





## THE GOSPEL READING

## LUKE 12:49-56

(CONGREGATION STANDING)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Luke, beginning in the twelfth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### O God, in a Mysterious Way

Poet **William Cowper**'s classic text (1773) counsels trust when God's ways confound us—fitting after a Gospel that burns through false peace and calls for discernment. The sturdy psalm tune '**DUNDEE**' originated in the **1615 Scottish Psalter** and was later harmonized in Thomas Ravenscroft's 1621 *Whole Booke of Psalmes*, giving the hymn an ancient, steadying frame for courageous faith.



- 1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
- 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
- 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
- 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.



You plant your foot-steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.  
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.  
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.  
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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 into hell. 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.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*Each petition shall conclude with:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The Prayers conclude:*

A: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**C: Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### THE OFFERING

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

#### **Praeludium und Fuge c-Moll BWV 847**

from 'Das wohltemperierte Klavier I'

by Johann Sebastian Bach

Anna Keiserman, Solo Piano

*Bach's compact C-minor pair—No. 2 of Book I—moves with focused, clear-eyed energy: the **prelude** a steady motor, the **fugue** a purposeful pursuit of its subject. It sonically mirrors Hebrews' exhortation to **run with perseverance** and to order our steps under the Word that tests and refines.*

### THE OFFERTORY

#### **Create in Me a Clean Heart**

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,





## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

**C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

## Come Down, O Love Divine

by Ralph Vaughan Williams

*This beloved prayer (a 14th-century Italian lauda translated in 1867) asks the Spirit to “freely burn . . . till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes”—a direct, gentle image of purifying fire for the Table. Vaughan Williams composed the soaring tune DOWN AMPNEY for The English Hymnal (1906), naming it after his birthplace; its lyric rise invites a quiet gaze toward Christ (Heb 12:2) and welcomes Jeremiah’s refining flame.*

## 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: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## I See the Lord

Words and Music by Jonathan Smith, Jacob Sooter, Matt Maher and Eddie Hoagland

*A contemporary worship setting rooted in Isaiah 6, this song trains us to behold the enthroned Lord—“exalted and lifted high”—so we can go out with undivided allegiance (Luke 12) and eyes fixed on Jesus (Heb 12:2). Written by Smith, Sooter, Maher, and Hoagland and popularized by Vertical Worship, it’s a strong sending acclamation of holiness before mission.*

### Verse 1

This is where worship starts  
Here in the temple of my heart  
Remembering who You are  
And all You've done  
This is Your majesty  
All I have tasted and I've seen  
Remembering who You are  
And once again

### Chorus 1

### Chorus 1

I see the Lord  
Forever glorified  
Exalted and lifted high  
And all of the kingdom it cries  
You are You are the Lord

## **Verse 2**

This is eternity  
Deep calling deep inside of me  
I'm right where I'm meant to be  
Here with You  
This is Your family  
Stretching as far as I can see  
I'm right where I'm meant to be  
Once again

## **Chorus 2 / Bridge / Chorus 2**

### **Ending**

You are the Lord holy You are  
You are the Lord worthy You are  
You are the Lord

## **Chorus 2**

I see the Lord  
Forever glorified  
Exalted and lifted high  
And all of the kingdom it cries  
You are You are the Lord  
Seated upon the throne  
The God who is three in one  
The Father the Spirit the Son  
You are You are the Lord

### **Bridge**

You are the Lord holy You are  
You are the Lord worthy You are  
You are the Lord holy You are  
You are the Lord worthy You are

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE**

A: This little light of mine...

### **C: I'm gonna let it shine!**

A: In our gospel reading today, Jesus longs for the kindling of a great fire. While this sounds scary at first, we remember that the fire has already been kindled within us: the fire of the Holy Spirit. May we take that Spirit and strive for justice in our communities and world while sharing the good news of Jesus until...

### **C: Everyone knows that God loves them!**

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

*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](mailto:communications@epiphanysuwanee.org).*



# 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:** Michael Parker

**Worship Production:** Steve Belfield

**Worship Accompanist:** Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

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##### **O Spirit of the Living God**

Text Author: Henry H. Tweedy (1935)  
Tune Information Name: FOREST GREEN  
Arranger: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)  
Copyright: Public Domain

##### **A Mighty Fortress**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg  
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##### **O God, in a Mysterious Way**

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##### **Praeludium und Fuge c-Moll BWV 847**

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Deutscher Verlag für Musik Leipzig

##### **Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 187)**

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##### **Come Down, O Love Divine**

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##### **I See the Lord**

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- ◆ 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

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