



what we can do

responding to
God's generosity

week 2

October 4, 2026



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHAT WE CAN DO: RESPONDING TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

What is possible for us to do in response to God's lavish generosity? God's gifts come to particular people, in particular places, in particular times. Because we are made in God's image, we, too, uniquely embody God's steadfast abundance, love, and mercy. We are equipped to be generous where we are. Drawn more deeply into the body of Christ, we are reminded of our belovedness, and we can respond with generosity, love, and service on behalf of our neighbors.

PRELUDE

Gratitude

by Brandon Lake; Arr. by Earvan Manongdo, c. 2024

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

by Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

VERSE 1

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never-ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee, may I still thy goodness prove.

VERSE 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer: Hither by thy help I've come:"
And I hope, by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

VERSE 3

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.



ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God, the giver of all good, the source of all joy.

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another..

Silence For Reflection

A: God of all,

C: You have given us all that we need and you ask that we share your abundance. We confess that we have not responded to your call to be open channels of your grace. We clench our fists when you ask for open hands; we close our minds when you ask for grace toward our neighbors. Open our hearts to live in the abundance of your creation; loosen our grip and restore our souls, that we may freely give and receive. Amen.

A: Beloved in Christ, God makes all things new. In the name of Christ, + you are forgiven. Your hearts are unfurled; your grasping is unbound. You are free to live as flowing streams of God's abundant grace.

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.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

P: Let us pray.

C: God of all, you created us for humility and grace. Where there is contempt, may we share your mercy. Where there is brokenness, may we turn again toward healing. Hold us in your love, through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

THE WORD

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong.
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me (X3)
the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A RESONSIVE READING

PSALM 84:1-7

Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)

L: How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

L: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

C: Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

L: Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

C: Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

L: They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.



A SECOND READING

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE GOSPEL READING

LUKE 18:9-14

(Congregation standing)

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

C: Glory to you , O Lord.

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS & A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

the Prayers conclude:

A: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

I Surrender All

Music: Winfield S. Weeden, Orch. by Ed Hogan

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: Let us pray together.

C: God of life, You have blessed us with every good gift. Open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world 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.

COMMUNION SONG

I Will Arise And Go To Jesus

Joseph Hart (1759)

Arr. Carol Troutman Wiggins, 2019

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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Let us pray together.

C: Abundant God, You have nourished us with life, love, and grace.

**Fill us to the brim with your care, that we may go into the world
with open arms and open hearts to share your peace with the world.**

Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: May God bless you and keep you.
May God's mercy flow freely through you.
May you be filled with the abundance of God's love ✠,
and held in God's peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Love The Lord

by Lincoln Brewster; Arr. by John Wasson

VERSE 1

Love the Lord Your God will all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, and with all your strength
(repeat)

CHORUS

With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your strength
Love the Lord Your God will all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, and with all your strength

INTERLUDE

VERSE 2

I will serve You, Lord with all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, and with all my strength
(repeat)

CHORUS

With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your strength
Love the Lord Your God will all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, and with all your strength

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED & SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

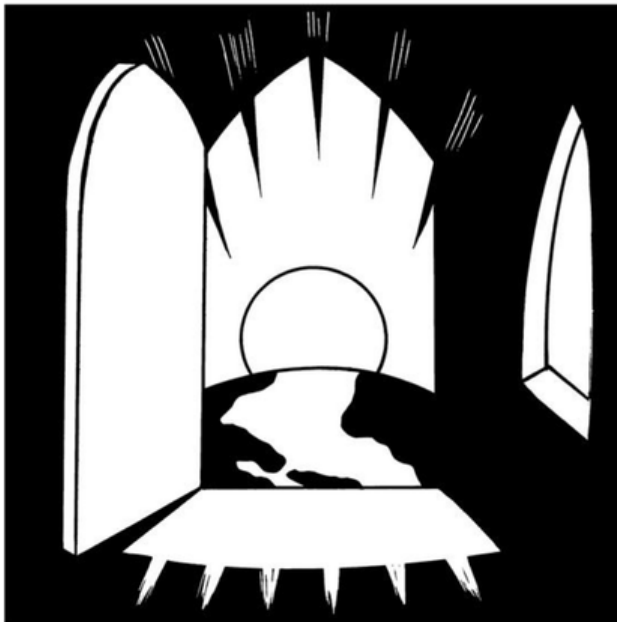
C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: We live in a divided world, and yet we long for unity. The Christian faith should be that place that rises above the divide, but even our faith has been tainted by division. (In fact Christianity may be more divided than anything!) This is not what God hopes for us. May we find unity in grace, may we find unity in communion. May unity bring back all of God's children, especially those who worry that God doesn't love them. We work for this unity until...

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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.*



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: Heather Hart, DMus

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Gratitude

by Brandon Lake
Arr. by Earvan Manongdo, c. 2024

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.
Music: German melody, 18th century
Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc

Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)

Lyrics Anna Bartlett Warner (1859)
Music William B. Bradbury music, 1862
Public Domain

Alleluia (ELW SETTING X)

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Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)

Text Albert F. Bayly
Music: The Sacred Harp, 1844, arr. Sacred Hymns, 1985
Text: c. Oxford University Press
Arr. c. 1985 Augsburg Fortress

I Surrender All

Music: Winfield S. Weedon, Orch. by Ed Hogan
Arr. c. 1997 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music and World Music (a div. of WORLD MUSIC)

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music c. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, Augsburg Fortress
Copyright Holder Augsburg Fortress

Lamb of God

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Joseph Hart (1759)
Arr. Carol Troutman Wiggins © 2019 [ASCAP]

Love the Lord

Lincoln Brewster, arr. by John Wasson
2005 Integrity's Praise! Music
CCLI Song # 4572938 -- CCLI License # 2933416

What We Can Do: Responding to God's Generosity (2025)

By: Rev. Miriam Samuelson-Roberts
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