



October 18, 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

Amazing Grace - Piano Solo

Arr. by Ronald McVey

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

by John L. Bell

VERSE 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be
known, will you let my life be grown in and you and you in
me?

VERSE 2

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or
scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

VERSE 5

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my
name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 grace, you seek us when we are lost. Meet us where we are and commit us to a life of generous mercy in you. All this we pray in Jesus's name. 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 32:1-7

All the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble. (Ps. 32:6)

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.



A SECOND READING

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4, 11-12

This letter attributed to Paul begins with a typical salutation, blessing, and words of praise for what God is accomplishing among the recipients. By remaining faithful and growing spiritually during hardship, the Thessalonian Christians have become witnesses to the glory of God.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

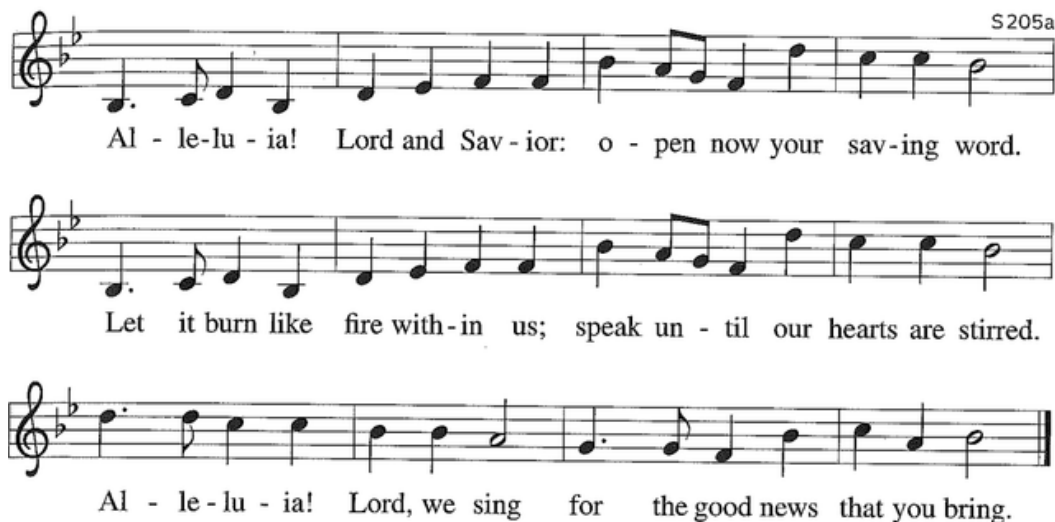
We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

S 205a



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 19:1-10

(Congregation standing)

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

C: Glory to you , O Lord.

Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a rich man who is also a lost sinner. Moved by Jesus' acceptance of him, Zacchaeus becomes a model of discipleship. In immediate response to being restored to God's people, Zacchaeus ministers to the poor and seeks reconciliation with those whom he has wronged.

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light (ELW 815)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

Nearer, Still Nearer

by Lelia N. Morris

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

For The Fruit Of All Creation

Fred Pratt Green
(Slides only)

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

I Will Follow

by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan

INTRO

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow
Oh oh oh

VERSE 1

All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in You alone

CHORUS

here You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow (You)

INTERLUDE

Yeah I will follow You yeah

VERSE 2

Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone

BRIDGE

In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy unending joy
And I will follow

Yeah I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED & SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: Being lost is a horrible feeling, but we also know "someone" is always looking for us. When we are lost may we be honest and admit our need to be saved. May we be open to an experience like Zacchaeus, an experience that may change our lives. Changed people change the world. As we are transformed by God's love may we be sent out to 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 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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Amazing Grace - Piano Solo

Arr. by Ronald E. McVey
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Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

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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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I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light (ELW 815)

Text & music by Kathleen Thomerson
c. 1970, 1975 Celebraion

Nearer, Still Nearer

by Lelia N. Morris, Arr. Unknown
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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
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Lamb of God

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

For The Fruit Of All Creation

Text: Fred Pratt Green
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I Will Follow

by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan
CCLI Song #5806878
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Nashville Three; So Essential Tunes; Spirit Nashville Three

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

By: Rev. Miriam Samuelson-Roberts
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