All the nations will be gathered before the throne

MATTHEW 25:32



November 22, 2026

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRIST THE KING

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.
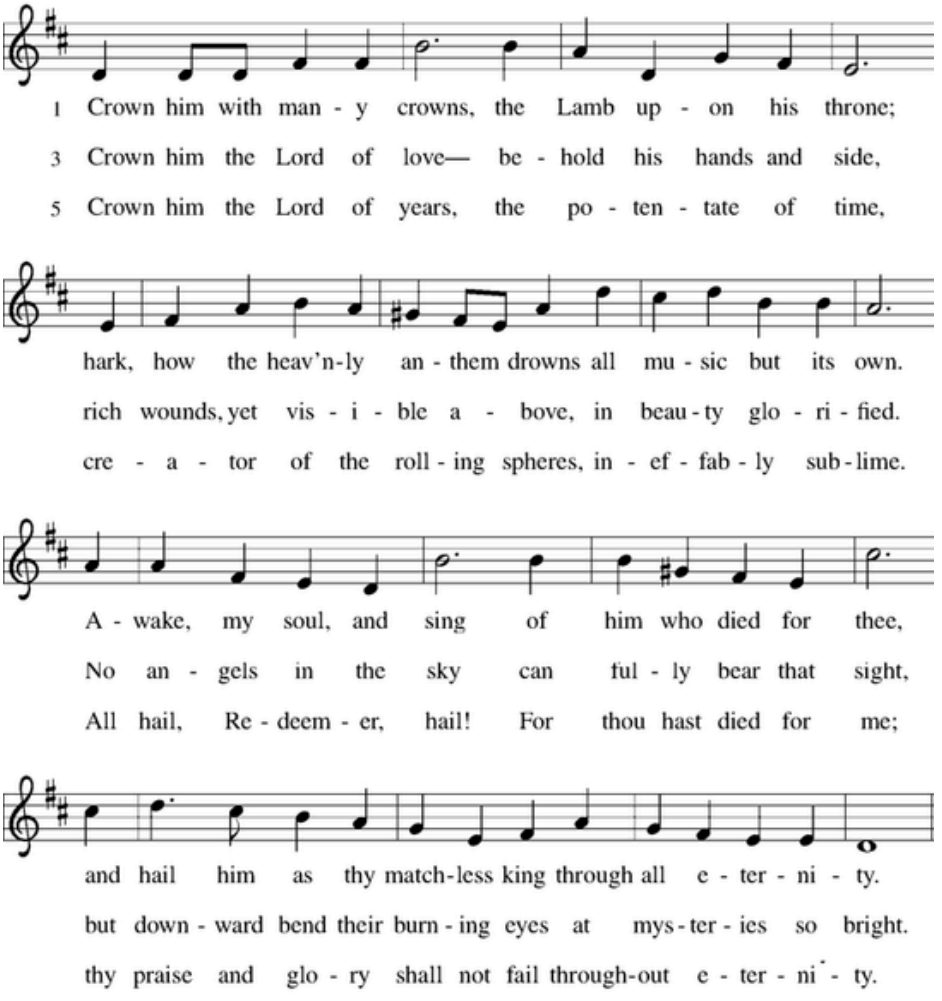
PRELUDE **Piano Solo**

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG **Crown Him With Many Crowns (ELW 855)**

Text by Matthew Bridges; Music by George J. Elvey



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence For Reflection

L: Holy God,

C: **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

L: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

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: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.



A SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:15-23
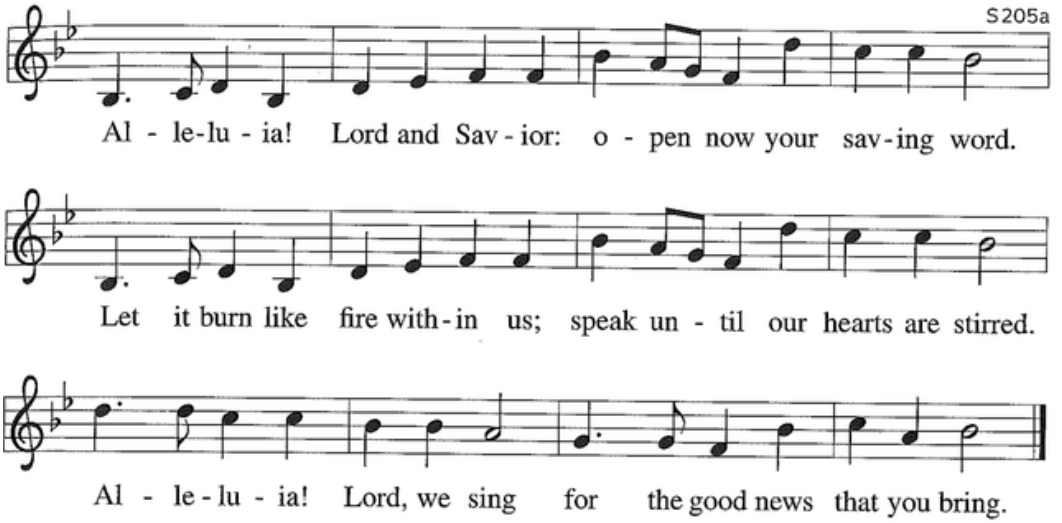
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Alleluia (ELW Setting X)**



THE GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 25:31-46**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

(Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Matthew, in the twenty fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you , O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
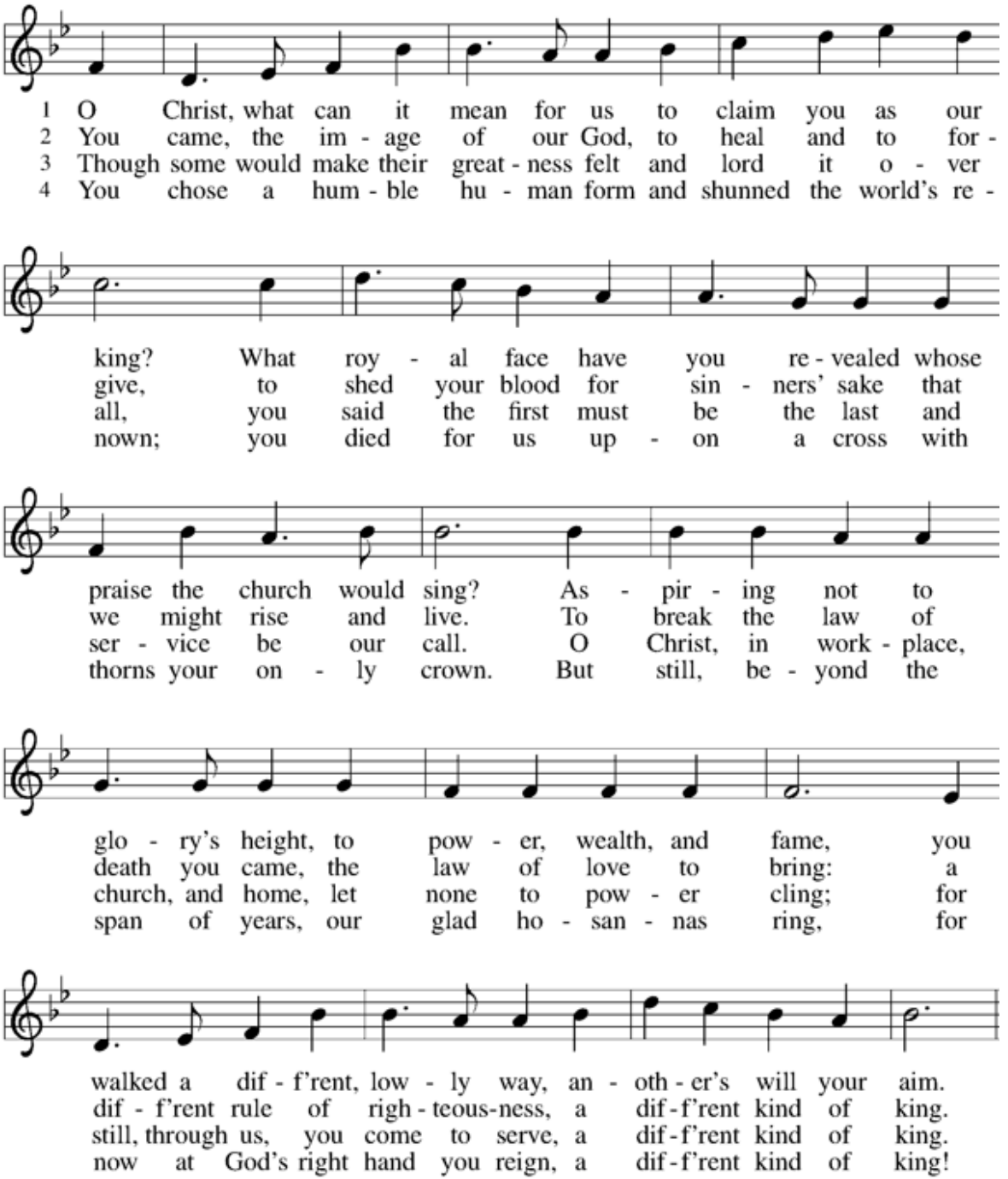
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS & A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, What Can it Mean for Us (ELW 431)

Text by Delores Dufner; Music by Henry Cutler



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: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

the Prayers conclude:

A: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen.
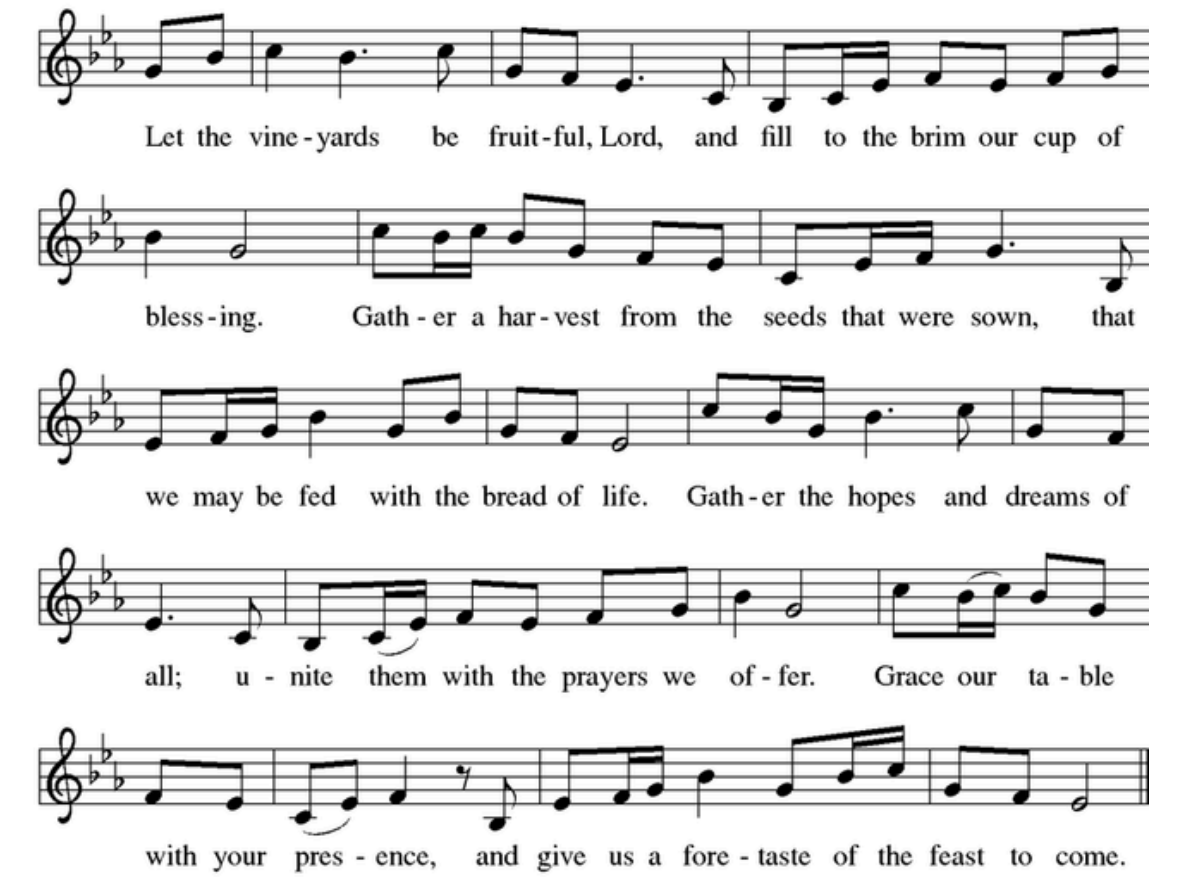


THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Love Divine
Text by Charles Wesley; Music by John Zundel

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together.

C: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

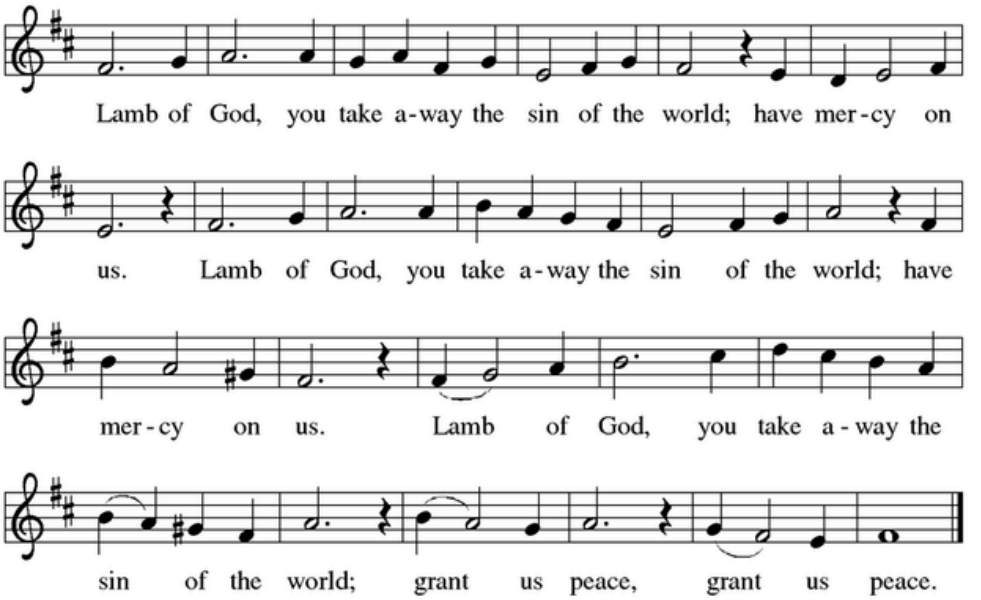
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

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.

LAMB OF GOD





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 SONG

Shine On Us
Arr. by Mary Time, Michael Smith, and Debbie Smith
Solo performed by Gina Deaton, accompanied by Zhiyang (Tomo) Shu

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 SONG

Your Love Awakens Me
by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala, Arr. by Dan Galbraith

VERSE 1
There were walls between us, by the cross you came
and broke them down, You broke them down
There were chains around us, by Your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.

PRE-CHORUS
You called me into the light. You called my name and then my heart came alive.

CHORUS
Your love is greater, Your love is stronger,
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens.
Your love is greater, Your love is stronger,
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens.

VERSE 2
Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life, I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken, all creation singing, we're alive, cause You're alive.

BRIDGE (2X)
And what a love we've found. Death can't hold us down.
We shout it out. We're alive 'cause You're alive!

CHORUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED & SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: May we return to the first words of the Bible where God creates everything and calls it good. May this reminder expand our view of the world around us. May we see God in everything and may we respond accordingly. May we see God in everyone and treat them with kindness, compassion, and generosity. We will live this way until…

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

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

Pianist: Zhiyang (Tomo) Shu

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)
Lyrics by Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859
Music by William B. Bradbury, 1862
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Alleluia (ELW SETTING X)
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O Christ, What Can it Mean for Us (ELW 431)
Text by Delores Dufner; Music by Henry Cutler
Text c. 2001, 2003 GIA Publications Inc.

Love Divine
Text by Charles Wesley, 1747
Music by John Zundel, 1870
Arranged by Lloyd Larson
c. 2023 Hope Publishing Company

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
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Lamb of God
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
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Arr. by Mary Time, Michael Smith, and Debbie Smith
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Your Love Awakens Me
Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala, Arr. by Dan Galbraith
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