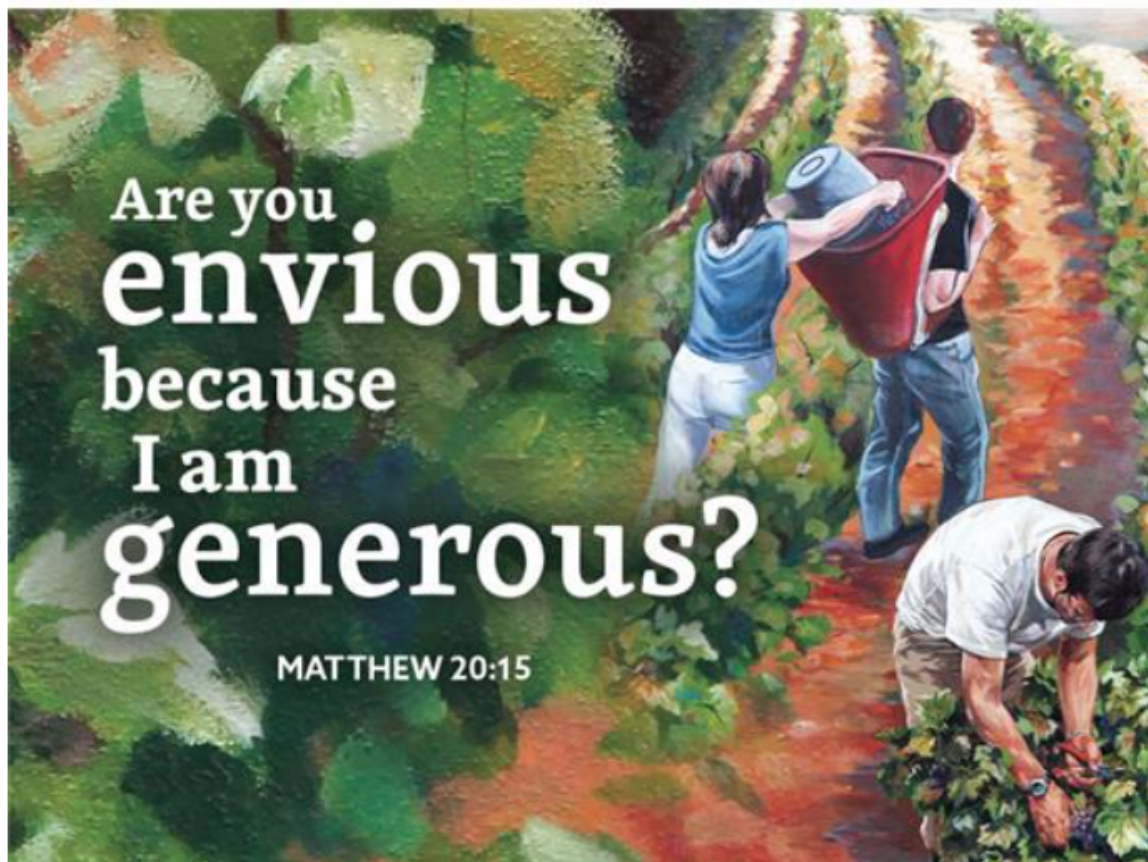




September 20, 2026



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

Rondo on a Theme by Beethoven

by Fritz Kreisler, 1808

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Lord of Light (ELW 688)

Composer: Cyril V. Taylor



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

A: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith. Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence For Reflection

A: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of 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: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 READING FROM

JONAH 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"



A RESONSIVE READING

PSALM 145:1-8

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

L: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

L: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

C: One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

L: They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

C: They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

L: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

C: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

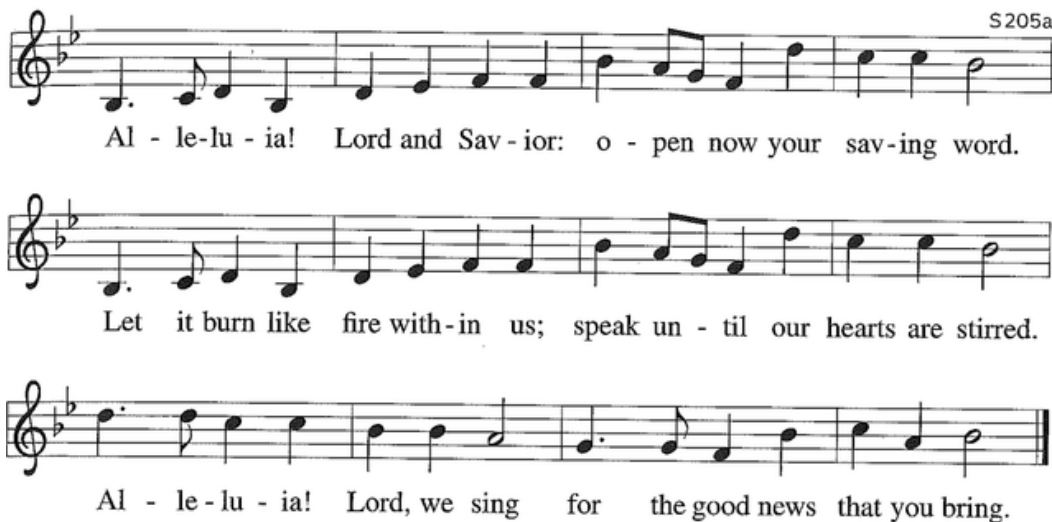
L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia (ELW Setting X)

S205a



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

MATTHEW 20:1-16

(Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Matthew, beginning in the twentieth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

As Saints of Old (ELW 695)



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

the Prayers conclude:

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.



THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus Paid it All

Music by John T. Grape

Arranged by Lura Foster

THE OFFERTORY

Create In Me a Clean Heart (Capers) ELW 185

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, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together.

C: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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

Arabesque No. 1 by Claude Debussy

(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.

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

More Than Conquerors

Music and Lyrics by Lincoln Brewster; arr. by John Wasson

VERSE 1

When my hope and strength is gone
You're the one who calls me on
You are the life
You are the fight
That's in my soul

VERSE 2

Oh, Your resurrection power
Burns like fire in my heart
When waters rise
I lift my eyes
Up to Your throne

CHORUS

We are more than conquerors, through Christ
You have overcome this world, this life
We will not bow to sin or to shame
We are defiant in Your name
You are the fire that cannot be tamed
You are the power in our veins
Our Lord, our God, our Conqueror

VERSE 3

I will sing into the night
Christ is risen and on high
Greater is He
Living in me
Than in the world

VERSE 4

No surrender, no retreat
We are free and we're redeemed
We will declare
Over despair
You are the hope

CHORUS

BRIDGE (3X)

Nothing is impossible
Every chain is breakable
With You, we are victorious
You are stronger than our hearts
You are greater than the dark
With You, we are victorious

CHORUS (2X)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED & SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: Imagine being offended by grace. That may seem like an odd pairing but it happened for Jonah, in the parable that Jesus shared, and we experience it in our very transactional world. Either we may think we deserve more than others or we don't deserve all that we have been given. Regardless we are invited to experience all that God desires to give us and celebrate the ways that God has blessed everyone. May we celebrate God's abundant love so that...

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

Worship Production: Steve Belfield

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Rondo on a Theme by Beethoven

by Fritz Kreisler, 1808
c. 1997 Summy-Brichard Music division of Summy-Brichard Inc.

Lord of Light ELW 688

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953
Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH ; Composer: Cyril V. Taylor
Text © Union of Welsh Independents
Music © 1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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As Saints of Old (ELW 695)

Text: Frank von Christerson
Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
Text c. 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company.
Arr. c. Oxford University Press

Jesus Paid it All

Music by John T. Grape
Arranged by Lura Foster
c. 2001 by CRI, Canton, OH

Create In Me a Clean Heart (Capers) (ELW 185)

Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress
Sources Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1984, arranged by Dennis Friesen Cooper
Text Public domain

Lamb of God

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

Arabesque no. 1

by Claude Debussy, 1891
Public Domain

More Than Conquerors

Music and Lyrics by Lincoln Brewster; arranged by John Wasson
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