



Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
www.conyerselc.org

November 16, 2025 – 10:00 AM

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
40th Anniversary Celebration!

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome all who believe in Jesus Christ to the Lord's Supper as we partake in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. For those who would prefer, grape juice is available in the center ring of each serving tray. If you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing. God's forgiveness and love is for everyone.

We are honored that you are with us today and we ask everyone to please sign the *Friendship Register* in each pew. Visitors are asked to also complete a *Visitors Card* from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Again, Welcome!

***Invites the Congregation to stand.**

HOLY COMMUNION

"Now the Feast and Celebration" - Musical Setting by Marty Haugen

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

[C] Amen.

[P] Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] Faithful God,

[C] you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

[P] Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ✝ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

[C] Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** "How Firm a Foundation" ELW #796
As the hymn begins, the congregation turns toward the entrance to face the processional cross.

*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.

*Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

(continued on next page)

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Now the Feast”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

***The Prayer of the Day**

[P] The Lord be with you.
[C] **And also with you.**
[P] Let us pray...
Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

[C] **Amen**

Children’s Message

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

Children’s Church *(Children are invited to the Fellowship Hall for further worship/education.)*

The First Lesson: *Isaiah 62:1-4*

¹ For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.
³ You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her and your land Married, for the Lord delights in you,

[L] The Word of the Lord.
[C] **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 84; refrain, Ps. 84:1

(Congregation sings verses in ***bold*** print only.)



Psalm 84:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress
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¹How dear to me | is your dwelling,

O | Lord of hosts!

²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

³Even 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.

⁴**Happy are they who dwell | in your house!**

They will always be | praising you. R

⁵Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

⁶**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.**

⁷They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

⁸**Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob. R**

⁹Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.

¹⁰**For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in
the tents | of the wicked.**

¹¹For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk | with integrity.

¹²**O | Lord of hosts,**

happy are they who put their | trust in you! R

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The Second Lesson: *Ephesians 2:11-22*

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵ abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; ²¹ in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia! Repeat

***The Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16**

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

[C] **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

***The Hymn of the Day:** “*The Church's One Foundation*” ELW #654
(Used at the Service of Dedication for our Sanctuary, October 12, 1986)

***The Apostle's Creed**

ELW, Page 105

**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 to the dead.
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.**

***The Prayers**

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and fed by the word, we come together as the people of God to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We thank you, O God, that you have blessed Epiphany Lutheran Church with 40 years of ministry here in Rockdale County. As you brought us together to form one church, so bring together the church around the world that we may bear witness to your amazing love through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for the pastoral leadership you have provided for Epiphany. As we have raised up pastors within our midst and as we have helped train those who serve as pastors, so continue to raise up shepherds for your flocks throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of music and for how you have blessed this congregation with worship and musical leadership throughout the years. As they have inspired and touched us through their talents, so help us always and in every place to give praise for your mighty works within us and within our world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for our children and youth and for all those who have led, educated, and cared for them throughout the years. Help us to remember and recognize that our children are a present part of our church who inspire us by their enthusiasm and lead us by their simple trust in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for the different ministries and service projects in which Epiphany has participated: Family Promise, Meals on Wheels, Back Pack Buddies, Vacation Bible School for All, WINGS, Phoenix Pass, and many others. May we always understand that our focus remains outside ourselves to the needs and promises of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for the reconciling work you have accomplished through Jesus Christ. Break down walls and hostilities that divide people and nations. Break down walls and hostilities that may divide us. Teach us to be neighbors to each other instead of strangers and aliens. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give rest to those who care for others in homes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and hospice. Be with those who are dying, comfort those who grieve, and heal those who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that we are citizens with the saints and members of your household. Keep us in communion with all the faithful departed until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***The Peace** is shared by all.

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **And also with you.**

The minister and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.**

The Offering

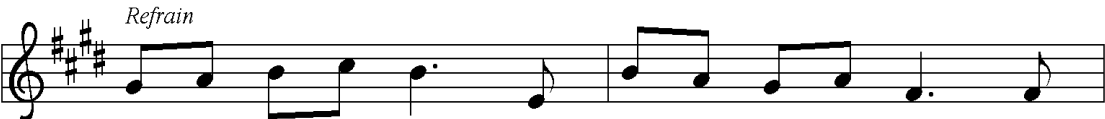
Offertory:

“Good Gifts”
Sam Armstrong-Reiner and Choir

***Offertory Hymn**

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***Offering Prayer**

[A] Let us pray together,
[C] God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

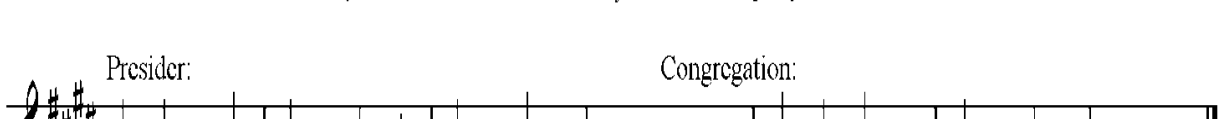
***The Great Thanksgiving**

Presider: Congregation: Presider: Congregation:



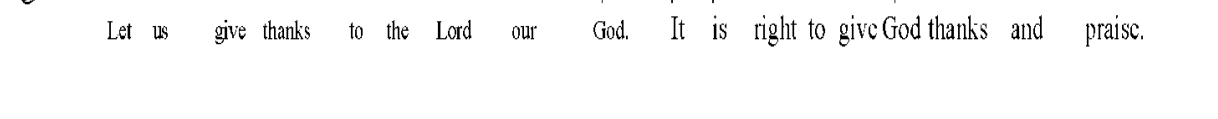
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Congregation:



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you God of po - wer and



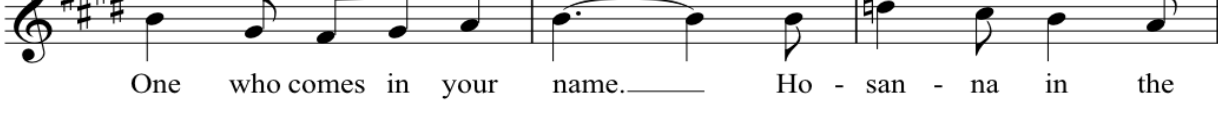
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the



One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the



high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

[C] 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.

Choir Anthem: *“O Christ the Same”* arranged by Frederick Frahm
 (Commissioned for our 30th anniversary)

Communion Hymns: (1) *“Canticle of the Turning”* ELW #723
(2) *“Light Dawns on a Weary World”* ELW #726

[P] Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

[C] **Amen.**

1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda 1 2

thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

 Coda

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

[A] God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

[C] **Amen.**

***Benediction (Blessing)**

[P] God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

[C] Amen.

***Recessional Hymn:** *“When Peace like a River”* ELW #785

*As the cross is carried out during the singing of the hymn,
the congregation turns to face the cross.*

***Dismissal**

[All] Follow Christ, Live Faithfully, Serve All. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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*40th Anniversary
1985 - 2025*

HOLY COMMUNION

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