

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

"God is our Refuge and Strength" (*Introit*) not because we live up to His commandments, but because, by His grace, He freely justifies us and declares us to be righteous (*Epistle*). This justification comes about violently—by the violent shedding of Christ's Blood on the cross, and by the violent death of our sinful nature in the waters of Holy Baptism (*Gospel*). By this violence we get to be called "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord, Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken" (*Old Testament*). So our prayer is that the Lord keep us steadfast in His grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptations (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 46:1-3, 11; antiphon: Psalm 119:46



P I will speak of Your testimonies | before kings *
and shall not be | put to shame.

P God is our Ref- | uge and Strength, *
a very present Help in | trouble.

G Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way, *
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,

P though its waters | roar and foam, *
Though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

G The Lord of hosts is | with us; *
the God of Jacob is our | Fortress.

G Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P I will speak of Your testimonies | before kings *
and shall not be | put to shame.

Collect of the Day

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12

Thus says the Lord God: "I have set watchmen on your walls, O

Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

"Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! Indeed the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: 'Say to the daughter of Zion, "Surely your Salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.'" And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a

P Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised *
in the city | of our God!

G Walk about Zion, go around her, number her | towers, *
consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels,
that you may tell the next gener- | ation *
that this is God, our God forever and | ever.

Epistle Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Brethren: Now we know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the Law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Divine Service, Setting Three

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements

↑ Opening Hymn.....645

Invocation; Confession.....p. 184

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit.....bulletin

Kyrie.....p. 186

Gloria in Excelsispp 187-89

Salutationp. 189

Collect of the Daybulletin

↓ Old Testament Reading...bulletin

Gradualbulletin

Epistle Readingbulletin

↑ Alleluia and Verse.....bulletin

Holy Gospel.....bulletin

Nicene Creedp. 191

↓ Chief Hymn555 st. 1-6

Sermon

↑ Offertorypp 192-93

Prayer of the Church

↓ Offering Hymn.....555 st. 7-10

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

↑ Preface; Proper Preface.....p. 194

Sanctus.....p. 195

Lord's Prayerp. 196

Words of Our Lord.....p. 197

Pax Dominip. 197

Agnus Deip. 198

↓ Distribution

Distribution Hymns585

658

655

↑ Nunc Dimittispp 199-200

Thanksgivingpp 200-01

Benedicamus.....p. 201

Benedictionp. 202

Closing Hymn.....656

↑ - Please stand • ↓ - Please sit

Welcome to Epiphany Lutheran Church!

Here is where Jesus answers His promise to be with us always, by coming to us in His living and active Word and the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

Parents of Small Children:

We are very happy that you are here today, honoring Our Lord's Words: "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk. 18:16). If you feel you must step out with a fussy child, please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Divine Service, not out.

Visitors:

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Beffrey and the congregation! We hope you'll come back to Founders Hall after the service to share a cup of coffee and snack with us.

Who may Commune at Epiphany?

The Sacrament of the Altar is offered at Epiphany every Lord's Day and every Wednesday evening. The normal communicant is a confirmed member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under no circumstances should an unbaptized person commune. If you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, or have not communed at Epiphany before, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service begins.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 48:14



G Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P God is our God forever and | ever. *
He will be our Guide even | unto death.



G Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 11:12-15

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

G (♪) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus said to the multitudes: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (♪) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

About the Cover

The initials **VDMA** abbreviate the Latin, *verbum Domini manet in æternum*, "the Word of the Lord endures forever" (Isa 40:8; 1 Pe 1:24-25). This was embraced as the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, a confident expression of the enduring power of God's Word. It was first used by Frederick the Wise in 1522, who had it sewn on the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, worn by prince and servant alike. It gained wider use among Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them.

Abbreviated from Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions.

The Festival of the Reformation (Observed)

✠ Sunday 29 October Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever.

—Isaiah 40:8

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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