

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, which He planted "on a very fertile hill. He did everything for His vineyard, not only clearing it of stones and planting it with choice vines, but also building the watchtower" of His prophets and hewing out the wine vat of His priesthood in its midst. But when he looked for it to yield grapes, there were only wild grapes of bloodshed and unrighteousness (*Old Testament*). The Lord Jesus likewise described the unfaithfulness of those who were called to care for His vineyard (*Gospel*). But in this He also describes His cross and Passion, by which He has redeemed the vineyard for Himself. He is the true Vine, planted by death into the ground, and in His resurrection, He brings forth "the fruits in their seasons." Among those good grapes of the true Vine is the apostle Paul. Once a zealous persecutor of the Church, he "suffered the loss of all things" in order to "gain Christ and be found in him," to "know him and the power of his resurrection" (*Epistle*).

Introit

Psalm 118:22-24; antiphon: Psalm 118:1



P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!

P The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.

G This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

P This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

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.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

Collect of the Day

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of

stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be runed or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

P He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

G Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Divine Service, Setting Three

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements
↑ Opening Hymn.....912
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 Hymn.....544
Sermon
↑ Offertorypp 192-93
Prayer of the Church
↓ Offering Hymn842

✠ 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 Hymns568
430
571
↑ Nunc Dimittispp 199-200
Thanksgivingpp 200-01
Benedicamus.....p. 201
Benedictionp. 202
Closing Hymn.....664

↑ - 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Matthew 21:42



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

P The stone that the builders rejected has become the | cornerstone; *

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous | in our eyes.



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

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 21:33-46

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

G (♩) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (♩) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

✠ Sunday 8 October Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

—Matthew 21:42

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

4219 Parklane/P.O. Box 245 • Dorr, Michigan 49323
www.epiphanydorr.org

Office: (616) 681-0791 • office@epiphanydorr.org
Pastor Beffrey: (216) 965-5959 (cell) • pastor@epiphanydorr.org