

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

As the Church Year comes to an end, we confess that Our Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending. The Church particularly focuses our attention not on the end, but on the ongoing feast (*Gospel*). That is where Our Lord's promise of a new heaven and earth meet, where we heed Our Lord's joyful call and sup with Him in the nuptial hall of the Lamb of God (*Chief Hymn*). So the Spirit and the Church rightly call out, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Introit

Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11; antiphon: Jeremiah 29:11,12a



- P** I know the plans I have for you, de- | clares the Lord, *
plans for wholeness and not for | evil.
Then you will call upon Me and come and | pray to Me, *
and I will | hear you.
- P** Lord, You were favorable | to Your land; *
You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
- G** Show us Your steadfast love, | O Lord, *
and grant us Your sal- | vation.
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear Him, *
that glory may dwell | in our land.
- G** Faithfulness springs up | from the ground, *
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
- 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 know the plans I have for you, de- | clares the Lord, *
plans for wholeness and not for | evil.
Then you will call upon Me and come and | pray to Me, *
and I will | hear you.

Collect of the Day

Absolve, we beseech You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; 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 65:17-25

Thus says the Lord: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of My people be, and My chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 45:14-15

- P** In many-colored robes [the King's daughter] is led | to the King, *
with her virgin companions following be- | hind her.
- G** With joy and gladness they are | led along *
as they enter the palace | of the King.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that Day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that

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↑ - 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.

whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Revelation 21:1



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P I saw the holy city, new Jer- | usalem, *
coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her | husband.



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 25:1-13

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

C (♪) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

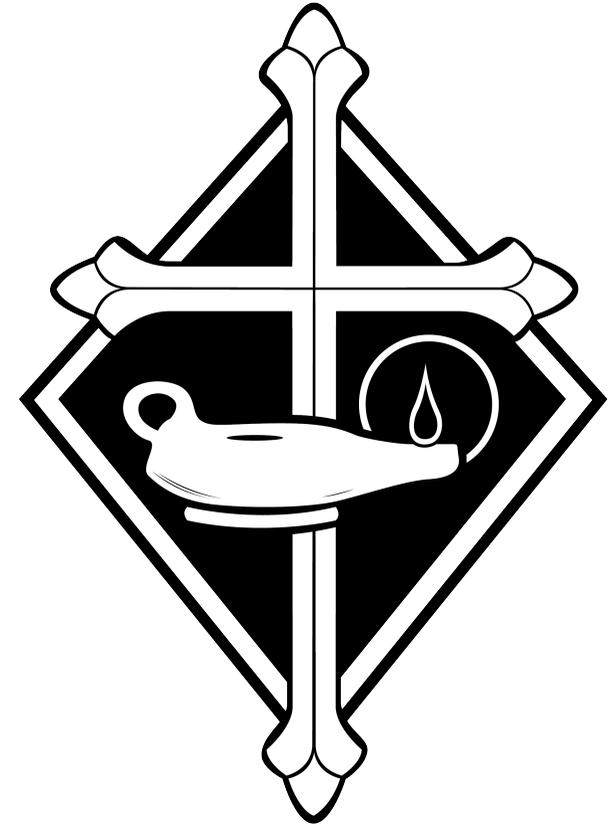
At that time Jesus said to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (♪) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

✠ Sunday 20 November Anno ✠ Domini 2022 ✠



Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,
and be like men who are waiting for their master to
come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open
the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

—Luke 12:35-36

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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