

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The Christian life is one of thanksgiving. We give thanks that God has made me and all creatures, and sustains me and all the world without any merit or worthiness on our part (*Explanation of the First Article of the Creed*). Part of our thanks is a sacrifice of praise, returning to God a portion of what He has given us (*Old Testament*). We recognize that we are recipients of an inexpressible gift (*Epistle*). Even if we suffer anxiety or want, the same God who cares for things as small as birds of the air and flowers of the field will see to all of our needs, especially our greatest need: the forgiveness of sins (*Holy Gospel*).

Introit

Psalm 104:24, 14-15; antiphon: Psalm 104:31



P May the glory of the Lord endure for- | ever; *
may the Lord rejoice | in His works.

P O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have | made them all; *
the earth is full of Your | creatures.

C You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to | cultivate, *

that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the | heart of man,

P oil to make his | face shine *
and bread to strengthen | man's heart.

C 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 May the glory of the Lord endure for- | ever; *
may the Lord rejoice | in His works.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

In those days Moses said to the people of Israel: "And it shall be, when

you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the country which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.'

"Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall answer and say before the Lord your God: 'My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. Then we cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey"; and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me.'

"Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:8; 147:9, 11

P Taste and see that the | Lord is good! *
Blessed is the man who takes ref- | uge in Him.

C He gives to the | beasts their food, *
and to the young ravens | that cry.
The Lord takes pleasure in those who | fear Him, *
in those who hope in His | steadfast love.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Brethren: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,

Divine Service, Setting Four

✠ Preparation ✠

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✠ Service of the Word ✠

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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:

So we can get to know you better, please fill out one of the attendance cards in the hymnal rack in your pew and 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 in every Service. The normal communicant is a confirmed member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under no circumstances should an un-baptized 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.

that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 6:24-34

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

G (♪) Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said to the disciples: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

"So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

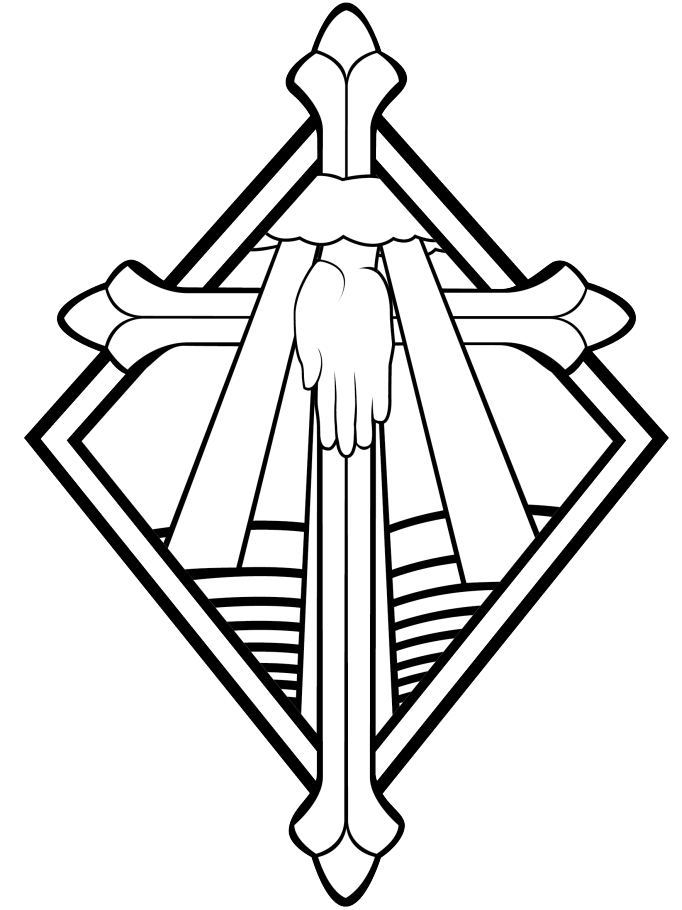
"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (♪) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Day of National Thanksgiving

✠ Wednesday 22 November Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

—Psalm 103:2

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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