

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

We remember with thanksgiving the famous and not so famous heroes of the Faith whom God our Father has used to display His grace. Yet our focus is not on them, but on Our Lord who clothes us with the white robes of His righteousness (*Introit*), who gathers the Faithful around His throne (*Epistle*), and who calls us blessed (*Gospel*). To Him must be traced every good faith and deed done by all the saints. So our prayer is that God our Father, who has knit us together His saints in one communion and fellowship, would grant us His grace to follow the blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living.

Introit

Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b



- P** These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation. *
They have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood
| of the Lamb.
- P** In You, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame; *
in Your righteousness de- | liver me.
- C** **For You are my Rock and my | Fortress; *
and for Your name's sake You lead me and | guide me.**
- P** Into Your hand I commit my | spirit; *
You have redeemed me, O Lord, | faithful God.
- 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** These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation. *
They have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood
| of the Lamb.

Collect of the Day

O almighty God, who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys which You have prepared for those who love You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

In those days John said, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 34:9-10

P Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints, *
for those who fear Him | have no lack.

C **The young lions suffer want and | hunger; *
but those who seek the Lord lack | no good thing.**

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1-3

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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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.

Alleluia and Verse

Matthew 11:28



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

☐ Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy- | laden, *
and I will | give you rest.



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 5:1-12

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fifth chapter.

☐ (♪) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time, seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

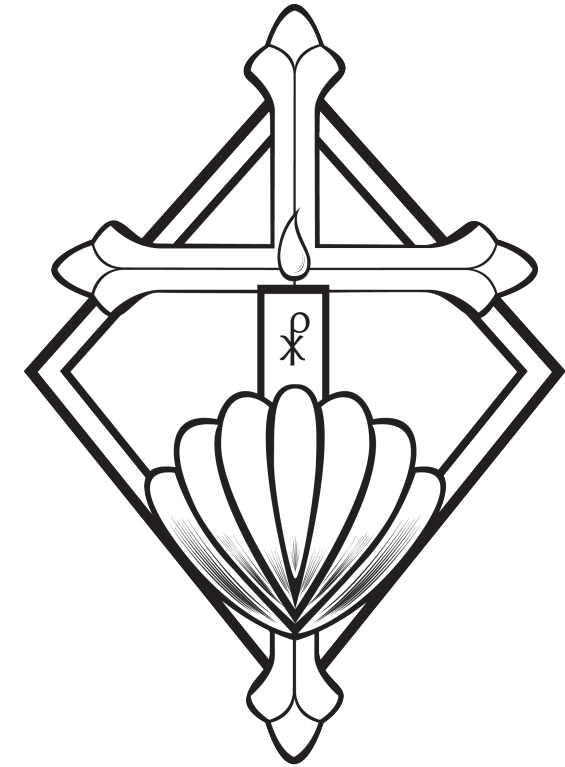
☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Feast of All Saints

(Observed)

✠ Sunday 5 November Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He adorns the humble with salvation.

—Psalm 149:4

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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