

The Theme of Today’s Liturgy

Our Redeemer comes mightily, not to frighten you but to “cause His glorious voice to be heard” and to give you “gladness of heart” (*Introit*). He is “the Sun of Righteousness” who comes with healing in His wings (*Old Testament*). This is why we are told the signs of His coming so that “when these things begin to happen” we might “look up and lift our heads, because Our Lord will “stir up our hearts and to make ready the way of His only begotten Son” (*Collect*).

Introit *Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 20:30, 29*



- P** Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your Sal- | vation comes.” *
The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard, and You shall have glad- | ness of heart.
- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph | like a flock! *
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.
- G** **Restore us, | O God; ***
let Your face shine upon us that we | may be saved!
- P** Turn again, O | God of hosts! *
Look down from | heaven, and see.
- G** **But let Your hand be on the man of Your | right hand, ***
the Son of Man whom You have made strong | for Yourself.
- 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** Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your Sal- | vation comes.” *
The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard, and You shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Collect of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading *Song of Solomon 2:8-14*

Behold, my beloved comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; he is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me: “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 50:2-3a, 5*

- P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God | shines forth. *
Our God comes; He does not keep | silence.
- G** **“Gather to Me My | faithful ones, ***
who made a covenant with Me by | sacrifice.”

Epistle Reading *Romans 15:4-13*

Brethren: Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Fa-ther of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to con-firm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glo-rify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.” And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” And again: “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.” Now may the God of hope

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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.

fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Luke 21:26b-27



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

P The powers of heaven will be shaken,
and they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with
power and great glory.



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

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Luke 21:25-36

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-first chapter.
- C** (♪) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said to His disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** (♪) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Populus Zion

The Second Sunday of Advent

✠ Sunday 10 December Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Straighten up and raise up your heads, because your Redemption is drawing near.

—Luke 21:28

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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