

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Our theme turns from penitential waiting to joyful anticipation. So, the violet of Advent lightens to the rose of repentant joy. Our desire is for Our Lord's gracious visitation (*Gospel*) which lightens the darkness of our hearts (*Collect*). Our Lord graciously visits us through faithful preachers (*Epistle*) who deliver God's comfort in the Sacraments and preaching of the forgiveness (*Old Testament*). Only that visit by Our Lord lightens our load and frees us from captivity to sin and death.

Introit

Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4-5



P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will | say, Rejoice! *

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord | is at hand.

P Lord, You have been favorable | to Your land; *

You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

G You forgave the iniquity of Your | people; *

You covered | all their sin.

P Will You not revive | us again, *

that Your people may re- | joice in You?

G Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak, *

For He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will | say, Rejoice! *

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord | is at hand.

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

In those days Isaiah said, "'Comfort, comfort My people,' says your God. 'Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is

ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.'

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 80:1-2

P You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth. *

Stir up Your might and come to | save us!

G Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel, *

You who lead Joseph | like a flock."

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Brethren: This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from 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.

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 80:2b



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

P Stir up Your might, O Lord,
and come and save us.



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

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 11:2-10

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

G (🎵) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ and he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'"

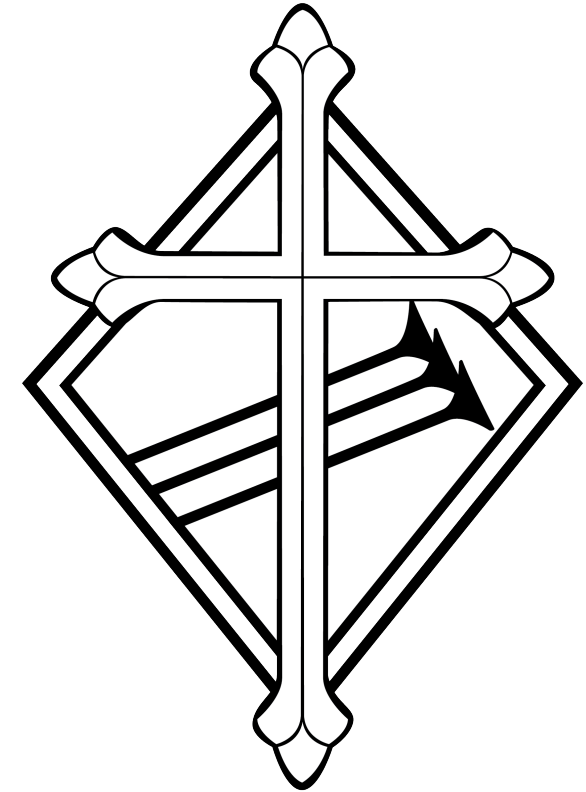
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (🎵) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Gaudete

The Third Sunday of Advent

✠ Sunday 11 December Anno ✠ Domini 2022 ✠



Prepare the way of the Lord; behold, the Lord God comes with might.

—Isaiah 40:3, 10

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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