

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The anticipation for Our Lord's coming now reaches its zenith. Our prayer is that the "earth open and bring forth the Savior." (*Introit*) For when He comes with His grace, we are speedily helped by His mercy and satisfaction. (*Collect; Alleluia*) It is any wonder that we are to rejoice and not be anxious for anything? (*Epistle*) For the Lord is at hand and near to all that call upon Him in truth. (*Gradual*) The Baptizer prepares us for the Lord's coming by confessing clearly who He truly is. (*Gospel*) So "let the skies pour down righteousness" – for Our Lord the Righteous One is here!

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8



P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness; *

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

P The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, *
and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.

G Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world. *

In them He has set a tent | for the sun,

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber, *
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

G Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them, *

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

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 Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

In those days Moses spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.' "

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 145:18, 21

P The Lord is near to all who | call on Him, *
to all who call on | Him in truth.

G My mouth shall speak the praise | of the Lord, *
and let all flesh bless His holy Name forever and | ever.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 40:17b



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

P The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.



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

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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.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. John 1:19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

G (🎵) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time: When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" he confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

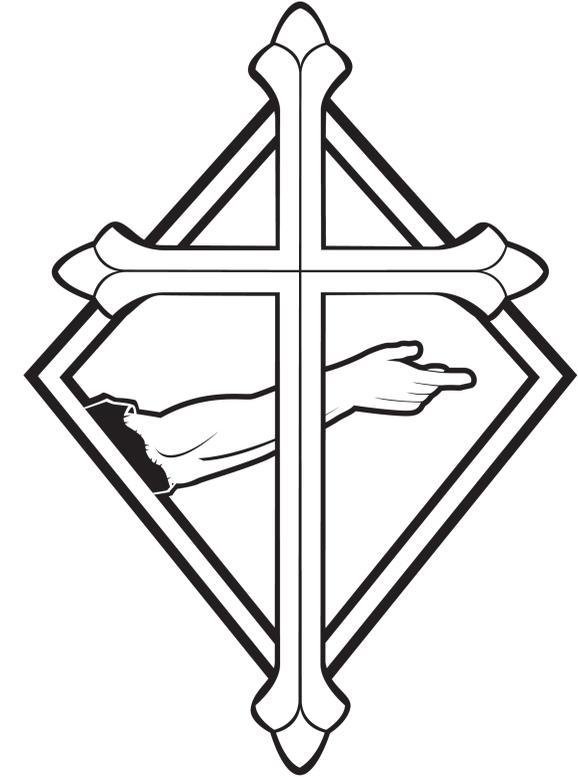
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (🎵) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Rorate Coeli

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

✠ Sunday 18 December Anno ✠ Domini 2022 ✠



My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

—Luke 1:46, 47

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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