

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Today, as we conclude our eight day celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord, we commemorate His Baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptizer (*Gospel*). Here we see God choosing apparently foolish and base things (water) to reveal to us His wisdom and our righteousness, sanctification and redemption (*Epistle*). For as we hear of the Spirit descending upon Jesus anointing Him the Christ (the Chosen of God), we proclaim that the Lord is our strength and song; and, using similar water in our baptisms, we draw the joy of our salvation (*Old Testament*). Our prayer, then, is that as He outwardly and manifestly bore our sins and suffered our punishment, we might inwardly be renewed in Him (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 89:1, 26-28; antiphon: Liturgical text; Psalm 89:20



P Behold the Lord, the Rul has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in His hand. *
I have found David, My | servant; with My holy oil I have a- |
nointed him.

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord for- | ever; *
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all
gener- | ations.

G He shall cry to Me, "You are My | Father, *
My God, and the Rock of my sal- | vation."

P And I will make Him the | firstborn, *
the highest of the kings | of the earth.

G My steadfast love I will keep for Him for- | ever, *
and My covenant will stand | firm for Him.

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 Behold the Lord, the Rul has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are | in His hand. *
I have found David, My | servant; with My holy oil I have a- |
nointed him.

Collect of the Day

O God, whose only-begotten Son has been made manifest in the substance of our flesh, grant, we beseech You, that as we have known Him in the likeness of our outward nature so we may inwardly be made regen-

erate in Him; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

In those days the prophet Isaiah spoke, saying: O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. LORD, let Your hand be lifted up. The LORD of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty. The wilderness and the wasteland of Jordan shall be glad, and the people shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. "I, the LORD, will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the dry land springs of water. Behold, My Servant shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: 'Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth,' " says the LORD Almighty.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 72:18-19

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of | Israel, *
who alone does | wondrous things.

G Blessed be His glorious name for- | ever; *
may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and |
Amen!

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-18

Brethren: After you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in Christ also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G 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:

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.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. John 1:29-34

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.
☑ (🎵) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time: John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

- ☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
☑ (🎵) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Baptism of Our Lord

✠ Sunday 14 January Anno ✠ Domini 2024 ✠



This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ.

—1 John 5:6

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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