

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord is the commemoration of His first bloodshed. It was unnecessary for Christ to be circumcised since that was what the Law demanded for those born in sin. Yet He freely and willingly submitted Himself to the circumcision law. In the same way, Our Lord Jesus freely and willingly submitted Himself to sin's penalty – death by the shedding of blood – when He took into Himself our sin and suffered it to death on the cross. This Feast, then, chiefly recalls why Our Lord was born – to shed His blood for our sake, and so satisfy the demands of the Law.

Introit

Psalm 98:1; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6



P Unto us a Child is born, unto us a | Son is given;*

And the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

C Oh, sing to the Lord a | new song, *
for He has done | marvelous things!

**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 Unto us a Child is born, unto us a | Son is given;*

And the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Collect of the Day

O God, who for our sake made Your blessed Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to endure the circumcision of the flesh, grant us true circumcision of the spirit that our hearts may be pure from all sinful desires and lust; 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

Genesis 17:3-14

In those days the LORD spoke to Abram, saying: "Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant

between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 98:3, 4, 2

P All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God. *
Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth.

C **The Lord has made known His | salvation. *
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight | of the nations.**

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23-29

Brethren: Before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Divine Service, Setting One

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements

↑ Opening Hymn.....379

Invocation; Confession.....p. 151

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit.....bulletin

Kyriep. 152-53

Gloria in Excelsisp. 154

Salutationp. 156

Collects.....bulletin

↓ Old Testament Reading...bulletin

Gradualbulletin

Epistle Readingbulletin

↑ Alleluia and Verse.....p. 156

Holy Gospel.....bulletin

↓ Chief Hymn.....**Insert**

Sermon

↑ Nicene Creedp. 158

Prayer of the Church

↓ Hymn380

↑ Offertorypp 159-60

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

↑ Preface; Proper Preface.....p. 160

Sanctus.....p. 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p. 161

Lord's Prayerp. 162

Words of Our Lord.....p. 162

Pax Dominip. 163

Agnus Deip. 163

↓ Distribution

Distribution Hymns.....**384**

387

368

↑ Nunc Dimittisp. 165

Post-Communion Collect...p. 166

Benedictionp. 166

Closing Hymn.....**897**

↑ - 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. Luke 2:21

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, second chapter.
- ☐ (🎵) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time: When eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

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

The Circumcision of Our Lord

✠ Sunday | January Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.

—Romans 10:13

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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