

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Today's chief thought is the mercy of God meeting affliction in the person of His Son and thereby making the unworthy worthy (*Gospel*). The story of Naaman reveals that this mercy is tied first to the waters of Baptism (*Old Testament*). Such mercy causes us to acclaim the Lord's reign of mercy (*Introit*) and gives us the courage to conquer evil with good (*Epistle*). But most of all, this mercy engenders in us the faith of the leper and centurion-faith to implore the Lord to mercifully look on our infirmities (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 97:1, 10-12; antiphon: Psalm 97:6, 9



P The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His | glory. *

For You, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; You are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

P The Lord reigns, let the | earth rejoice; *
let the many coast- | lands be glad!

G O you who love the Lord, hate | evil! *
He preserves the lives of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the | wicked.

P Light is sown for the | righteous, *
and joy for the up- | right in heart.

G Rejoice in the Lord, O you | righteous, *
and give thanks to His | holy name!

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 The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His | glory. *

For You, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; You are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, ...

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 5:1-15

In those days: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 102:15-16

P Nations will fear the name | of the Lord, *

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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.

and all the kings of the earth will fear Your | glory.

G For the Lord builds up | Zion; *
He appears in His | glory.

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:16-21

Brethren: Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 8:1-13

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

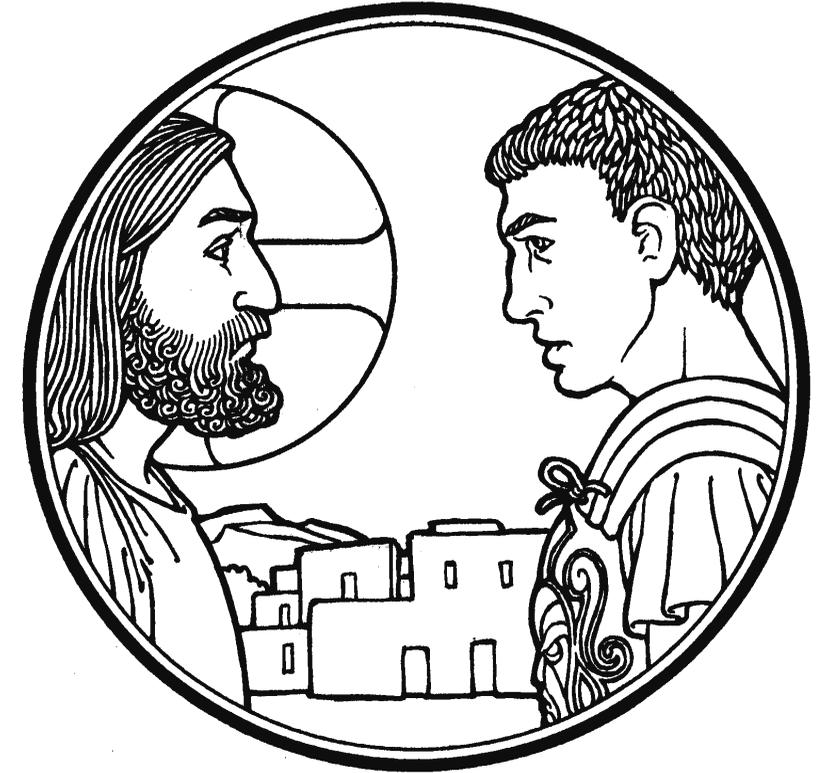
G (♪) Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

✠ Sunday 22 January Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



People will come from east and west,
and from north and south, and recline at table in the Kingdom of God.
—Luke 13:29

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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