

## The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Doubt, lack of faith, unbelief – that is ultimately what Satan wanted from Jesus (*Gospel*), and that was the test for Adam and Eve. It all goes back to the old question “Did God really say...” (Old Testament). Therefore we pray that our Lord “mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of [His] majesty to defend us from them that rise up against us” (*Collect*). For our confidence is that we shall call upon the Lord, and he will answer and deliver us (*Introit*).

### Introit

*Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-10, 13*



- P** When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will rescue him and | honor him. \*  
With long life I will satisfy him and show him My sal- | vation.
- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High \*  
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
- C** I will say to the Lord, “My Refuge and my | Fortress, \*  
my God, in | whom I trust.”
- P** Because you have made the Lord your | Dwelling Place— \*  
the Most High, who is my | Refuge—
- C** no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you, \*  
no plague come | near your tent.
- P** You will tread on the lion and the | adder; \*  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.
- C** 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** *Antiphon is repeated.*

### Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from them that rise up against us; through Jesus Christ...

### Collect of the Season

Almighty and everlasting God, who hates nothing You have made and forgives the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, ...

### Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 3:1-21*

In those days: The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the

fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Psalm 91:11-12*

**P** He will command His angels con- | cerning you \*  
to guard you in | all your ways.

**C** On their hands they will | bear you up, \*  
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

### Epistle Reading

*2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

Brethren: We plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I

## Divine Service, Setting Three

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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.

have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Tract

*Psalm 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16*

**P** He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High \*  
shall abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

**C** He will cover you with his | pinions, \*  
and under His wings you will find | refuge.

**P** When He calls to me, I will | answer Him; \*  
I will be with Him in | trouble.

**C** With long life I will sat- | isfy Him \*  
and show Him my sal- | vation.

### Holy Gospel Reading

*St Matthew 4:1-11*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the fourth chapter.

**C** (♪) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** (♪) Praise to You, O Christ

## Invocavit

The First Sunday in Lent

✠ Sunday 26 February ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The reason the Son of God appeared  
was to destroy the works of the devil.

—1 John 3:8

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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