

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

With today's liturgy, we begin the first of three stages of instruction in the meaning and benefit of Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. During the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday, we are instructed in Our Lord's grace. Today we learn that Our Lord's grace does not depend on how hard we work, but that He freely gives what is good (*Gospel*). So our prayer is that "we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by His goodness" (*Collect*). Because this grace is tied to Our Lord and His death, it is your strength, rock and fortress (*Introit*). We can rely on it (*Old Testament*) and trust in it in every need (*Gradual, Tract*). With this grace of Our Lord, we live in the certainty that He has given and continues to give us the incorruptible crown (*Epistle*).

Introit

Psalm 18:1-2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: Psalm 18:5-6b



P The cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. *
In my distress I called upon the Lord. From His temple He heard my voice.

P I love You, O Lord, my Strength. *
The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer.

C For You save a humble people, *
but the haughty eyes You bring down.

P [You have] equipped me with strength *
and made my way blameless.

C For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations, *
and sing to Your name.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, *
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Antiphon is repeated.

Collect of the Day

O Lord, we beseech You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people, that we who are justly punished for our offenses may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your Name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord...

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 9:2-10

In those days: I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 9:9-10, 18-19a

P The Lord is a Stronghold for the oppressed, *
a Stronghold in times of trouble.

C And those who know Your name put their trust in You, *
for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.

P For the needy shall not always be forgotten, *
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

C A- rise, O Lord! *
Let not man prevail.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 9:24 - 10:4

Brethren: Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware

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.

that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 130:1-4

- P** Out | of the depths *
I cry to | You, O Lord!
- C** O Lord, | **hear my voice!** *
Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!
- P** If You, O Lord, should mark in- | iquities, *
O Lord, | who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is for- | giveness, ***
that You | may be feared.

Holy Gospel Reading

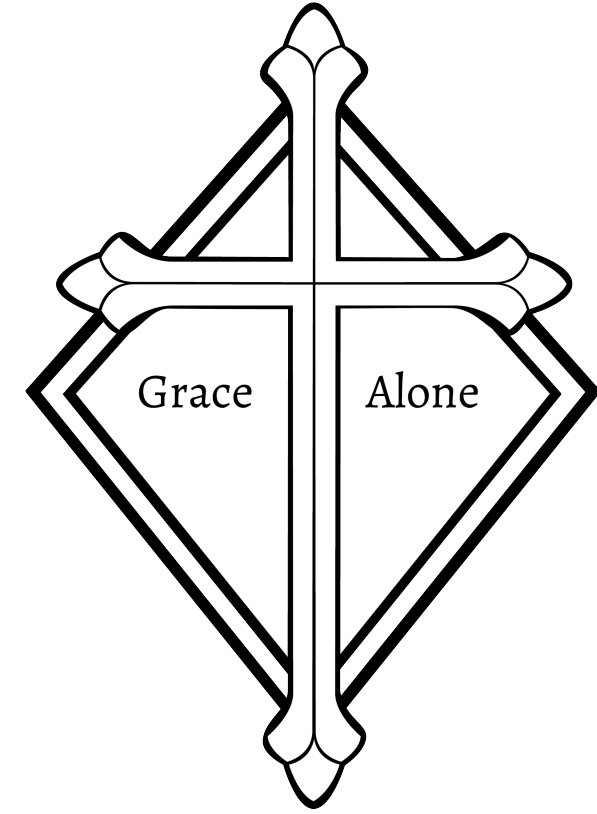
St Matthew. 20:1-16

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the, twentieth chapter.
- C** (🎵) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Septuagesima Sunday

✠ Sunday 5 February Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



We do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercy.

—Daniel 9:18

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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