

## The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Eyes that are fixed on the Lord are confident that He will have mercy and pull ensnared feet out of the trap (*Introit*). So we look to the Lord, beseeching Him to look on us and "stretch forth the right hand of His majesty to be our defense against all our enemies" (*Collect*). And in fixing our eyes on Jesus, we also then follow God as dear children, walking in the same love Christ has for us (*Epistle*). For our confidence is that the Stronger One (Christ) prevails for us against the strong man (Satan) who scares us to hell (*Gospel*).

### Introit

*Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18 20; antiphon: Psalm 25:15-16*



**P** My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. \*

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

**P** To You, | O Lord, \*  
I lift | up my soul.

**G** O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame; \*  
let not my enemies exult | over me.

**P** The troubles of my heart | are enlarged; \*  
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

**G** Consider my affliction and my | trouble, \*  
and forgive | all my sins.

**P** Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me! \*  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in You.

**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

We implore You, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord...

### 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 re-

mission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord...

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 8:16-24*

In those days: The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.' " And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said. And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be." ' " And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Psalm 9:19, 3*

**P** Arise, O Lord! Let not | man prevail; \*  
let the nations be judged be- | fore You!

**G** When my enemies | turn back, \*  
they stumble and perish before Your | presence.

### Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 5:1-9*

Brethren: Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be

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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.

partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Tract

*Psalm 123:1-3a*

**P** To You I lift | up my eyes, \*

O You who are enthroned in the | heavens!

**C** Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master, \*  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He has mercy up- | on  
us.

**P** Have mercy upon us, | O Lord, \*  
have mercy up- | on us.

### Holy Gospel Reading

*St Luke 11:14-28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the, eleventh chapter.

**C** (♫) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

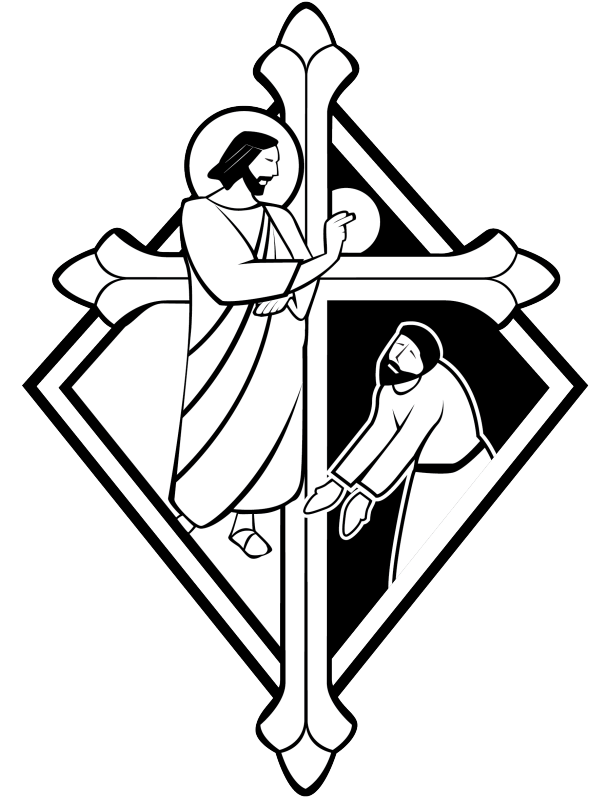
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** (♫) Praise to You, O Christ.

## Oculi

The Third Sunday in Lent

✠ Sunday 12 March Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

—Matthew 20:28

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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