

Quasi Modo Geniti

The First Sunday after Easter

✠ 11 April Anno Domini 2021 ✠



Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a
living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

—1 John 1:3

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the English District, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

4219 Park Lane | P.O. Box 245

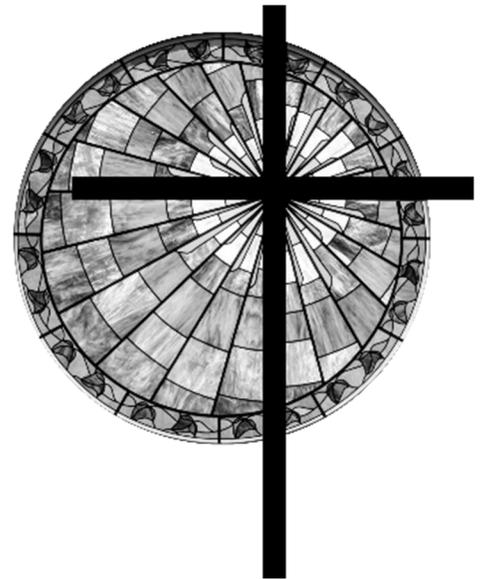
Dorr, Michigan 49323

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The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

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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.**

Welcome, visitors! We are glad to have you with us this morning as the Lord comes to us to give His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The resources of Epiphany are at your disposal. If you need assistance, the ushers are glad to help. Please make sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor and congregation, and join us after the service for fellowship and Bible Study!

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.

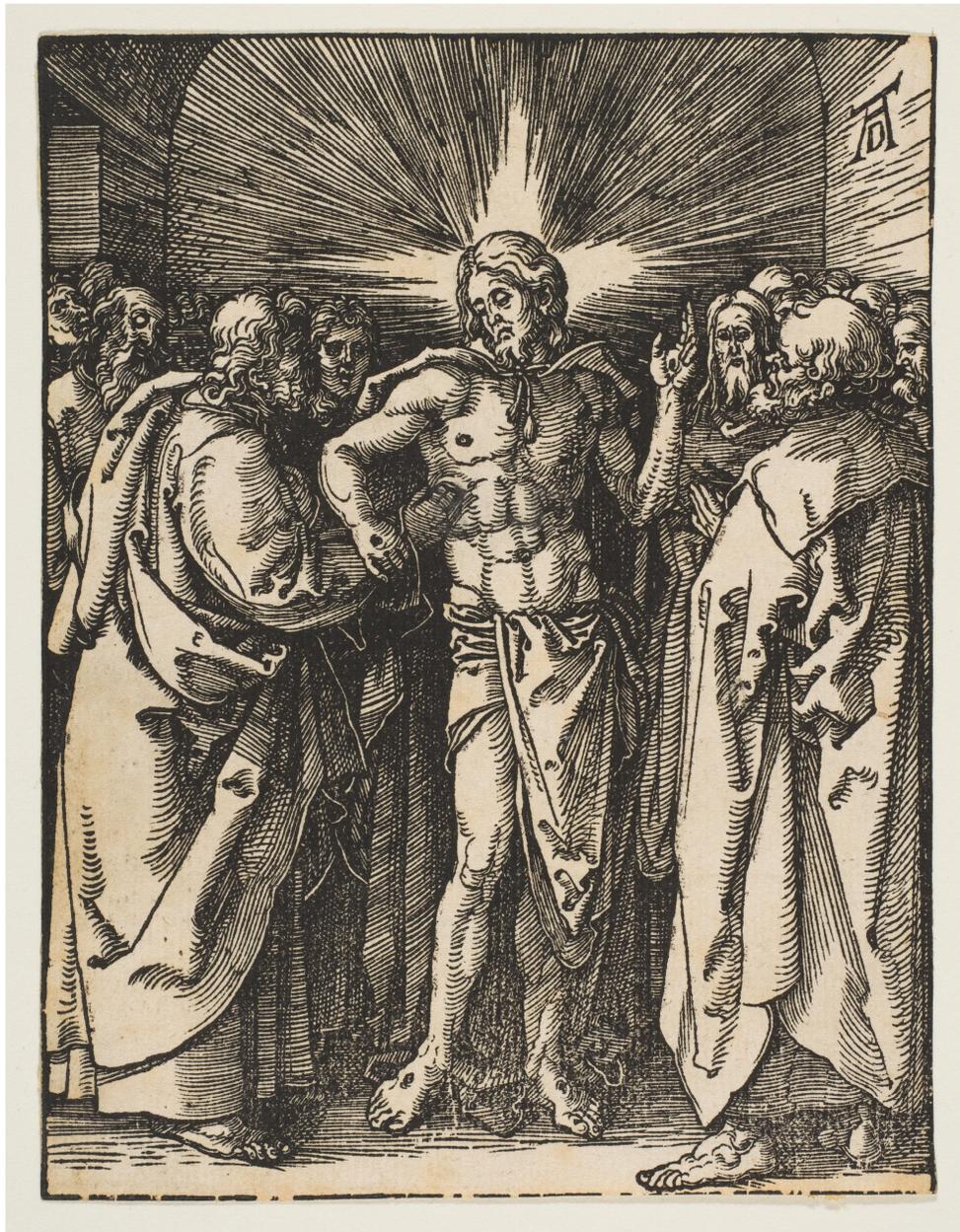
The Sacrament of the Altar is offered at Epiphany every Lord's Day and every Wednesday evening. The normal communicant is a confirmed member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under no circumstances should an un-baptized person commune. **If you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, or have not communed at Epiphany before, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service begins.**



If you need help hearing the service, the sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop, a special type of sound system that connects directly to hearing aids. Simply set your hearing aid to "T" (telecoil) to connect.

THE THEME OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Newborn babies crave milk, especially their mother's milk. In the same way, children of God crave the "sincere, milk of the Word," namely, the Gospel in preaching and the Sacraments (*Introit*). For "whoever is born of God has overcome the world" because He has received the victory over death in Christ (*Epistle*). This craving is faith that firmly holds to Our Lord and finds in His wounds the comfort He promises and delivers (*Gospel*). Our prayer is that such faith in Our Lord and His Word will allow us to grow up to produce godly living and conversation (*Collect*).



Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)
The Doubting Thomas, from the *Small Passion*
c. 1510

THE PREPARATION

Please **STAND**.

OPENING HYMN

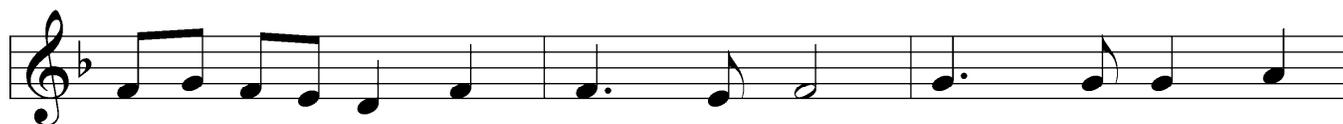
"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It," 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
font I've trav - eled, All your might has
dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
did re - lease me In a dear for -
come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756); tr. Robert Voelker (b. 1957)

BACHOFEN

Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen (1695-1755), alt.

87 87 88 77

Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

Tune: Public Domain

THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Based on Martin Luther's Baptismal Booklet of 1526.

Please **BE SEATED**.

ENROLLMENT OF SPONSORS

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, from ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

P [*Names of the sponsors*], is it your intention to serve [*name of candidate*] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R Yes, with the help of God.

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C Amen.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing upon these faithful Christians, [*names of sponsors*], who have pledged themselves to [*this/these*] catechumen(s) as sponsors in Holy Baptism and catechesis. Pour upon them Your Word and Spirit that they may faithfully confess the faith to [*him/her/them*], support and encourage [*him/her/them*] in [*his/her/their*] instruction and nurture, and pray for [*him/her/them*] that [*he/she/they*] might not fall away from Christ. Enable these sponsors to be examples of prayer and faithfulness in hearing the Word of

God, receiving the Sacraments, confessing sin, and living by faith in Christ's forgiveness with love toward others. Grant that their catechumen(s) might learn from them to suffer under the cross of persecution and affliction with steadfastness, patience, and joy, to the glory of the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, giver of all blessings, we praise You for this gift of a new life granted to these parents in the birth of a [son/daughter]. Protect mother(s) and [child/children] and shield them from anything harmful in body or soul. Give joy to these parents as they bring [this child / these children] for reception into Your kingdom through the water of Holy Baptism, and grant [this child / these children] Your continued blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C Amen.

PASTORAL ADDRESS AND EXORCISM

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.

Therefore, depart, you unclean spirit, and make room for the Holy Spirit in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

P Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Please **STAND**.

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O almighty and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray on behalf of Your servant(s) [name(s)], who ask(s) for the gift of Your Baptism and desire(s) Your eternal grace through spiritual rebirth. Receive [him/her/them], Lord, according to Your promise: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Now give Your blessing to [him/her/them] who ask(s) and open the door to [him/her/them] who knock(s), so that [he/she/they] may obtain the eternal blessing of this heavenly bath and receive the promised kingdom that You give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved

believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ☩ be with you.

C Amen.

GOSPEL

St. Mark 10:11-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom

**and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.

C Amen.

Please **BE SEATED**.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P *[Name(s)]*, do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R Yes, I believe.

P *[Name]*, do you desire to be baptized?

R Yes, I do.

THE BAPTISM

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P *[Name]*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

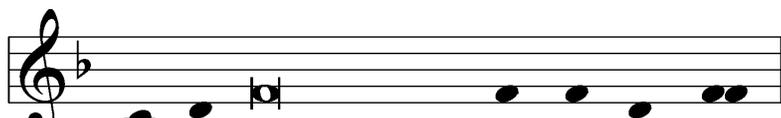
C Amen.

The baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle and is given to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

C Amen.

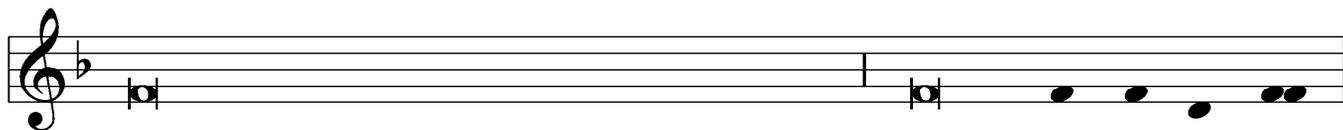
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



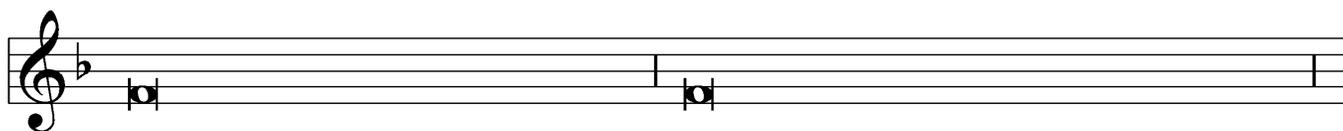
C Lord, have mer - cy.



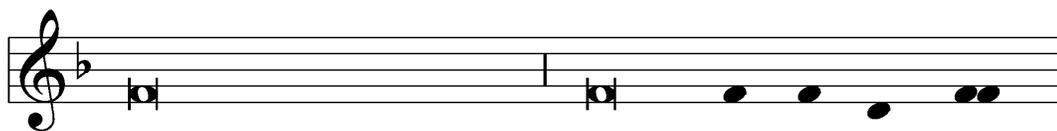
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



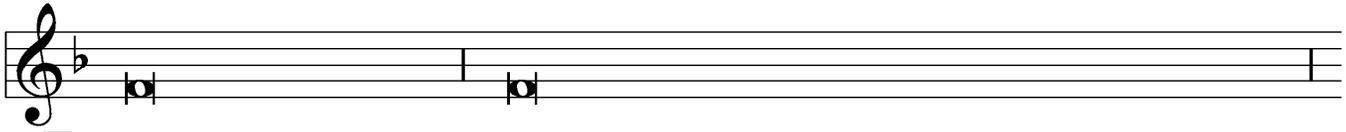
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



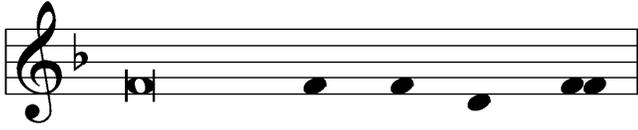
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



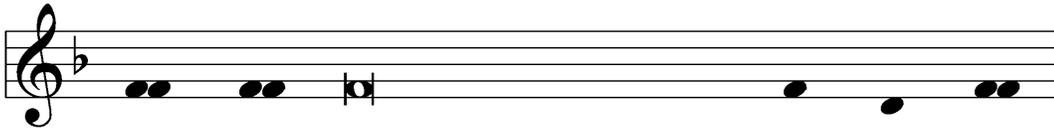
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE - WORTHY IS CHRIST

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

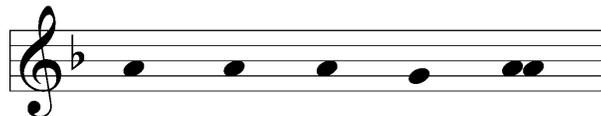


Final Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



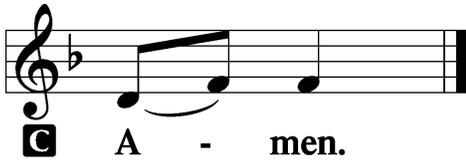
P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please **BE SEATED**.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

In those days Ezekiel said, The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And He led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Then He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the Word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

1 Corinthians 5:7; John 20:26



P Alleluia, alle- | luia! *

Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Alle- | luia!

C After eight days, when the | doors were shut, *

Jesus stood in the midst of the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." Alle- | luia!

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:4-13

Brethren: Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please **STAND**.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

P Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
The Lamb the sheep has ransomed:
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciling sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended
In that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died,
Reigns immortal.

Congregation



1 Christ is a - ris - en From the grave's dark



pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;



Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

P "Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw when wayfaring."
"The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;
Bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
My Lord, my hope, is arisen;
To Galilee He goes before you."

Congregation



2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, Then death were still



our pris - on. Now, with Him to life re - stored,



We praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

P Christ indeed from death is risen,
Our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Congregation

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

At that time, on the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please **BE SEATED**.

CHIEF HYMN

“O Sons and Daughters of the King,” 471

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the
Who sits and speaks un - to the three, “Your Lord will

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
go to Gal - i - lee.” Al - le - lu - ia!

4 That night th'apostles met in fear;
Among them came their Master dear;
And said, “My peace be with you here.”
Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.
Alleluia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be.”
Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia!

SERMON

Please STAND.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

after each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy, | *or* | **P** ...let us pray to the Lord.
C hear our prayer. | | **C** Lord, have mercy.

the prayers conclude:

P ...one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Please BE SEATED.

VOLUNTARY

During the voluntary, the Celebrant prepares the Altar for the Supper. You are encouraged to prepare your heart and mind for Holy Communion. Psalms 34, 42, 84, and 116 are especially suitable.

Your offering may be deposited in the plate located near the Baptismal Font when you go to the Altar for Holy Communion.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Please **STAND**.

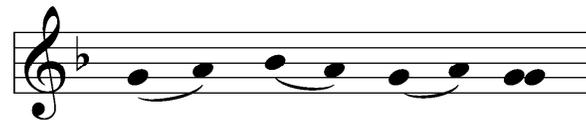
PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



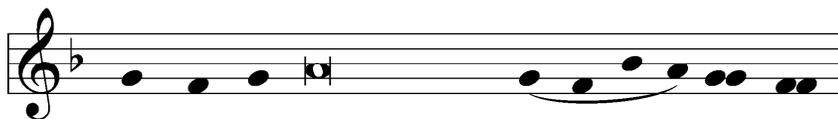
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His Body and His Blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His Body and drink His Blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

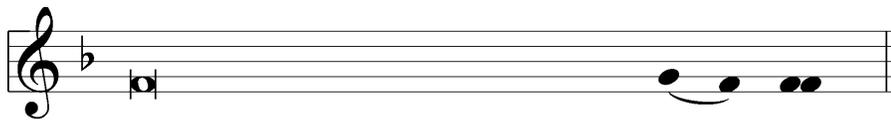
LORD'S PRAYER

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

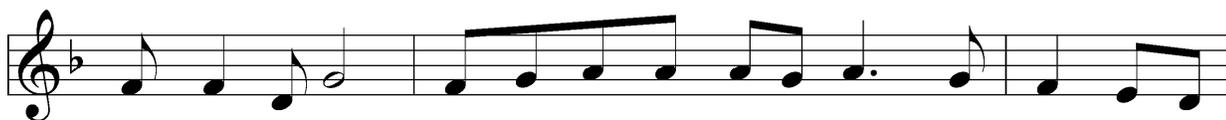


C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please **BE SEATED**.

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven," 477

- 1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 Δ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:

Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
 See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;

He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85), sts. 1, 3; rev. Jubilate Hymns Ltd., st. 2

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

Text (sts. 1, 3) and Tune: Public Domain

Text (st. 2): © 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd.; admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

HYMN TO JOY

87 87 D

"These Things Did Thomas Count as Real," 472



1 These things did Thom - as count as real: The
 2 The vi - sion of his skept - tic mind Was
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied That
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve And



warmth of blood, the chill of steel, The grain of wood, the
 keen e - nough to make him blind To an - y un - ex -
 one could live when one had died, Un - til his fin - gers
 thus the ris - en Christ re - ceive, Whose raw im - print - ed



heft of stone, The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.
 pect - ed act Too large for his small world of fact.
 read like braille The mark - ings of the spear and nail.
 palms reached out And beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945)

REALITER

Tune: Stephen R. Johnson (b. 1966)

LM

Text: © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

Tune: Public Domain

"Make Songs of Joy," 484



1 Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Our life was pur - chased by His loss; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 O death, where is your dead - ly sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 And where your vic - to - ry, O grave, Al - le - lu - ia!



He lives a - gain who once was dead! Al - le - lu - ia!
 He died our death up - on the cross. Al - le - lu - ia!
 As - sumed by our tri - um - phant King! Al - le - lu - ia!
 When one like Christ has come to save? Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Behold, the tyrants, one and all,
 Alleluia!
 Before our mighty Savior fall!
 Alleluia!

△6 For this be praised the Son who rose,
 Alleluia!
 The Father, and the Holy Ghost!
 Alleluia!

Please **STAND**.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – THANK THE LORD



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

“This Joyful Eastertide,” 482



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Tune: *Dauids Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1684

VRUECHTEN

67 67 and refrain

A Word on the Rite of Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism is given to us by Christ Himself. At His Ascension into Heaven, Christ said to His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (*Matthew 28:19*). In this, Christ left His Church her duty until He returns: preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments.

In addition to Christ's command, we also Baptize because of the great blessings it gives. Baptism saves: "He who believes and is Baptized will be saved" (*Mark 16:16*). It saves because it makes Christ's death for sin ours (*Romans 6:4*). But Baptism doesn't simply save us from eternal death; it guarantees our eternal life in heaven and resurrection on the Last Day: "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection" (*Romans 6:5*). For this reason we can go to our death just as we go to sleep at the end of the day. We know that we will wake up in the arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

To that end, the Lutheran Church, with the Church of all times and places, confesses the necessity and centrality of Baptism, particularly infant Baptism. Children are included in Christ's command to Baptize "all nations;" *all* excludes no one. Therefore, the Lutheran Church confesses; "Concerning Baptism it is taught that it is necessary, that grace is offered through it, and that one should also Baptize children, who through such Baptism are entrusted to God and become pleasing to Him" (AC IX 1-2).

What is necessary for Baptism?

For a Baptism to be "valid," that is, administered according to Christ's institution, all that is necessary is the application of water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. No other formula can be used ("Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier," etc.), for the inspired and inerrant Word of God records only the use of the Triune Name.

Why are there so many things in the Baptism liturgy?

Though water and the Triune Name are the necessary elements of a Baptism, the Church, through the centuries, has expanded what takes place in the Baptismal liturgy, called the Rite of Holy Baptism. These things that take place ensure that the person being Baptized knows what is happening (e.g., the renunciation of Satan, the confession of the Apostolic faith, etc.), and also to teach what Baptism means (e.g., the "Flood Prayer," anointing with oil, giving a candle, etc.). These things which occur in the Rite are salutary and are beneficial not only to the one being Baptized, but to those witnessing it, that they may recall their own Baptism and what it means.

How has the Rite of Holy Baptism changed through the centuries?

The Rite of Holy Baptism today and the Rite used by the early Church is very different. For the Church in the time of Augustine (c. 400 A.D.), Baptisms were primarily performed on adults, because Christianity was still spreading and "entire households" (c.f., Acts 16:11-15) were Baptized, though this certainly included infants in the household! Fonts were not the small pieces of furniture with which we are accustomed, but were more like pools, because Baptism was performed by immersion. Also, the person was Baptized naked, signifying the complete rejection of the person's former way of life (and for this reason, men and women were Baptized separately). After the person was Baptized, they were clothed in a white garment and were taken immediately to the Lord's Supper, and it was the first time they were allowed to hear the Words of Institution and witness the distribution of the Supper.

By the time of Martin Luther, Baptism looked much different. Many more symbolic acts were included in the Rite. In his 1523 *Baptismal Booklet* Luther retained the ceremony that had been appended to the Sacrament. For example, the Rite began with an exorcism, performed by blowing on the child's eyes. Also, salt was placed in the child's mouth, representing the salt of wisdom (Christ) which leads to

everlasting life. Moreover, the child's ears were opened with saliva on the Pastor's finger and the word *Ephphatha*, that is, "be opened," repeating Christ's actions to the deaf-mute man in Mark 7:31-37. However, at the end of this *Baptismal Booklet*, Luther said: "Now remember, too, that in Baptism the external things are the least important, such as blowing under the eyes, signing with the cross, putting salt into the mouth, putting spittle and clay into the ears and nose, anointing the breast and shoulders with oil, signing the crown of the head with the chrism, putting on the christening robe, placing a burning candle in the hand, and whatever else has been added by man to embellish Baptism. ... The human additions do not matter very much, as long as Baptism itself is administered with God's Word, true faith, and serious prayer" (*AE 53:102-03*).

Of course, Luther did not advocate a complete elimination of ceremony, for he and all other Lutherans have seen the confession of faith, education, and edification which come from ceremony. At the same time, he did desire that the ceremony be limited to only the most beneficial elements so that the actual Sacrament of Baptism shine more brightly. To that end, he issued a newly revised Rite of Holy Baptism in 1526 (which is the Rite used this morning). He retains the exorcism, prayers, and the use of oil to bless the child, but removes the blowing, salt, and *Ephphatha*. By this, the actual Baptism again gains the focus, allowing this saving act of God to once again shine forth.

What about the use of oil?

From the earliest days, the Church has used oil in various ways. The sick are anointed with oil. Christ sent out His twelve disciples, who, "cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them" (Mark 6:13). James also records that the sick are treated with the Word of God, prayer, and anointing with oil (James 5:14).

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. When oil is used in the Rite of Holy Baptism it symbolizes the sealing with the Holy Spirit for salvation, as St. Paul records in Ephesians: "In [Christ] you also trusted, after you heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:13-14). This fragrant oil is yet another reminder of the salvation accomplished for us by Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit.

"I am Baptized into Christ!"

The Baptism of any child of God is cause for us all to recall our own Baptism, the saving Flood where Christ called us His own. Daily we remember this Sacrament and rejoice in the confidence that, by it, Christ's righteousness covers us, and we are kept in His grace to life everlasting.

Announcements

LWML SPRING RALLY

The West Michigan Zone of the English District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally is **Saturday, April 17**, beginning at **9:00 AM** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakeview. All women are invited to attend!

There will be an *ingathering* for the Rally. The ingathering will focus on supplies for crisis pregnancy centers. Items such as baby wipes, baby bath towels and wash cloths, burp cloths, crib sheets, baby toys, and baby clothes up to 12 mos. are especially helpful. These items will be taken to the National LWML Convention in June, which will be held in Lexington, KY.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR NEEDED

West Michigan Lutheran High School is searching for an individual with a coaching background to serve as their Athletic Director. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the school office at (616) 455-2200 or email Kristine Angers at kangers@wmlhs.org.

WMLHS ENROLLING FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

West Michigan Lutheran High School is now enrolling for the 2021-22 school year. An affordable, exemplary Christ-centered education is within your reach! Contact the WML office at (616) 455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork. WML looks forward to educating your child!

STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Offerings</i>
Wednesday (3/24)	11	9	\$150.00
Sunday (3/28)	54	44	\$1740.00
Monday (3/29)	7	5	
Tuesday (3/30)	8	6	
Wednesday (3/31)	6	4	
Thursday (4/1)	39	31	
Friday (4/2, noon)	17	16	
Friday (4/2, 7 PM)	29		
Saturday (4/3)	16	14	
Sunday (4/4, 7 AM)	31	5	\$4927.00
Sunday (4/4, 9:15 AM)	53	43	
Monday (4/5)	7	5	

Serving Today

Celebrant..... Rev. Ryan Beffrey
Organist..... Diane Scott
Floor Elder David Steffens
Serving Elder..... Craig Baier
Acolyte Zeke Baier
Counters..... Jeremy Baier & Dan Scott
Altar Guild..... Sheila Hiscock & Melissa Vanarsdal

Serving Next Sunday

Floor Elder Craig Baier
Serving Elder..... Paul Cook
Acolyte Henry Maass
Counters..... Sandra Hoffbeck & Kim Harmsen
Altar Guild..... Becky Steffens & Cindy MacIntosh

In Our Prayers

Those with cancer

Keri Jastifer, Ted Mattingly, Darrell Dombrowski, Bill Miller, Todd Henderson, Bobby Vollman, Cameron Scott, Pam Peterman, Charlene Moore, Raquel Steffes, Keith Lundgren, Jessie Graham.

Those with health issues, difficulties, and challenges

Ken Zyk, Carol Powell, Norma Biggs, Shanda Brennan, Hannah Kelsey, Nathan Martin, Kitty Young, Alvina Hoffbeck, Doris Uramkin, Karen Garlock, Jeri Barthel, Pam Ashley, Jill White, Lynn Hyatt, Connie Kaniewski, Janet Lundgren.

Those who are pregnant

Jordan & Julie Velie

Our church work students

Zachariah and Claire Burgdorf, Timothy and Hanna Kern, Timothy and Chelsie Schmeisser.

Those serving in our Armed Forces

Hector and Natasha Brojas, Jordan Velie, Jacob Almaguer, Joshua Cipolla, Trent Beffrey, Lucas Golm, Brittany Warf, David Mills.

Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week

Larry & Pat Velie (04/12), Sarah Maass (04/14), Dave & Sandy Stein (04/15).

Those celebrating Baptism birthdays this week

Mark MacIntosh (04/16).

This Week at Epiphany

Today (4/11) **Sunrise Divine Service- 9:15 AM**
Sunday School - *15 minutes after service ends*
Bible Study - *15 minutes after service ends.*

Thursday (4/15) Confirmation Class - 4:30 PM

Sunday (4/18) **Divine Service- 9:15 AM**
Sunday School - *15 minutes after service ends*
Bible Study - *15 minutes after service ends.*

Looking Ahead

- 4/17 LWML Spring Rally
- 5/30 Confirmation Sunday