

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

"Newborn babies crave milk. In the same way, children of God ought to 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 both promises and delivers (*Gospel*). And our prayer is that such craving, faith in Our Lord and His Word will allow us to grow up to produce godly living and conversation (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 81:1, 7a, 10, 16n; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2a



- P** Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia! *
Long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia!
- P** Sing aloud to | God our Strength; *
shout for joy to the God of | Jacob!
- G** In distress you called, and I de- | livered you; *
I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.
- P** I am the | Lord your God, *
who brought you out of the land of | Egypt.
- G** Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it; *
and with honey from the rock I would satis- | fy 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

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...

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

In those days: The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD." ' ' ' So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophecy 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 breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD Almighty.' "

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

First Alleluia

1 Corinthians 5:7; John 20:26

P Alleluia, alle- | luia! *
Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us. Alle- | luia!

G 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 5:4-10

Dearly Beloved: 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

Divine Service, Setting One

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements
↑ Opening Hymn.....478
Invocation; Confession.....p.151

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit.....bulletin
Kyrie.....pp 152-153
This is the Feastp.155
Salutationp. 156
Collect.....bulletin
↓ Old Testament Reading...bulletin
First Alleluiabulletin
Epistle Readingbulletin
↑ Sequence Hymn.....460
Holy Gospel.....bulletin
↓ Chief Hymn.....471
Sermon
↑ Nicene Creedp. 158
Prayer of the Church
↓ Offering Hymn472
↑ Offertorypp 159-160

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

↑ Preface; Proper Preface pp 160-61
Sanctus.....p. 161
Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p.161
The Words of Our Lord.....p.162
Proclamation of Christp.162
Lord's Prayer.....pp 162-163
Pax Dominip. 163
Agnus Deip. 163
↓ Distribution
Distribution Hymns619
490
488
↑ Thank the Lordp. 164
Post-Communion Collect...p. 166
Benedictionp. 166
Closing Hymn.....468

↑ - 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.

testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

"Christians, to the Paschal Victim," #460

Holy Gospel Reading

St John 20:19-31

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

G (♪) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time: The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

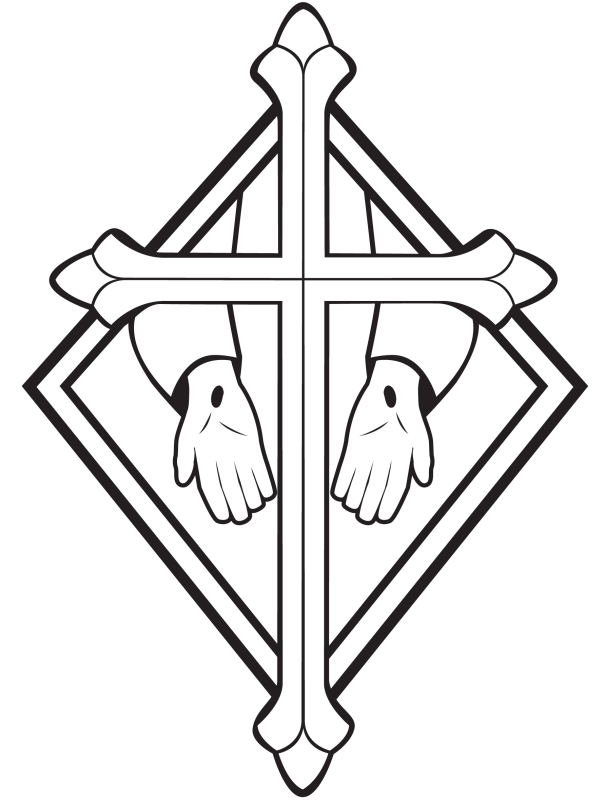
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (♪) Praise to You, O Christ.

Quasi Modo Geniti

The First Sunday after Easter

✠ Sunday 7 April Anno ✠ Domini 2024 ✠



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 Peter 1:3

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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