

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

The Holy Church waits expectantly and eagerly for the Lord to come again just as the disciples saw Him go at His ascension. But she does not wait passively. Instead, the Church waits both seeking the Lord's face in prayer (*Introit*) and with the fervent love for each other that shows itself in a generous care-giving (*Epistle*). Therefore, the Faithful pray that they always have a devout will towards God and pure-hearted service (*Collect*). In this way they will suffer adversity. Yet they are not without the comfort of their God. For the Spirit of Truth comforts the Church in the faithful remembrance of our Lord's Word and Supper (*Gospel*).

Introit

Psalm 27:1, 11a, 12; antiphon: Psalm 27:7a, 8b, 9a



- P** Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud. Alle- | luia! *
Your face, Lord, do I seek; hide not Your face from me. Alle- | luia!
 - P** The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom | shall I fear? *
The Lord is the Stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
 - G** Teach me Your way, | O Lord; *
give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;
P for false witnesses have risen a- | gainst me, *
and they breathe out | violence.
- 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** Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud. Alle- | luia! *
Your face, Lord, do I seek; hide not Your face from me. Alle- | luia!

Collect of the Day

Almighty, everlasting God, make us to have always a devout will toward You and to serve Your Majesty with a pure heart; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:23-28

Thus says the LORD God: "I will sanctify My great name, and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all

countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God," says the LORD Almighty.

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

First Alleluia

Psalm 47:8; John 14:18a, 28, 16:22b

- P** Alleluia, alle- | luia! *
God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne. Alle- | luia!
- G** Alleluia, alle- | luia! *
I will not leave you orphans; I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alle- | luia!

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 4:7-11

Dearly Beloved: Be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

Holy Gospel Reading

St John 15:26 - 16:4

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.
- G** (♪) Glory to You, O Lord.
At that time Jesus said to His disciples: "When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will

Divine Service, Setting Two

✠ Preparation ✠

- Prelude; Announcements
- ↑ Opening Hymn.....529
- Invocation; Confession.....p.167
- ✠ Service of the Word ✠
- Introitbulletin
- Kyrie.....pp 168-169
- This is the Feastpp.171-172
- Salutationp. 172
- Collect.....bulletin
- ↓ Old Testament Reading...bulletin
- First Alleluiabulletin
- Epistle Readingbulletin
- ↑ Alleluiap. 173
- Holy Gospel.....bulletin
- ↓ Chief Hymn.....539
- Sermon
- ↑ Nicene Creedp. 174
- Prayer of the Church
- ↓ Offering Hymn701
- ↑ Offertoryp 176
- ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠
- ↑ Preface; Proper Preface.....p 177
- Sanctus.....p. 178
- Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p.178
- The Words of Our Lord.....p 179
- Proclamation of Christ.....179
- Lord's Prayerp.179-180
- Pax Dominip. 180
- Agnus Deip. 180
- ↓ Distribution
- Distribution Hymns821
- Insert**
- 468**
- ↑ Thank the Lordp. 181
- Post-Communion Collect...p. 183
- Benedictionp. 183
- Closing Hymn.....525

↑ - 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.

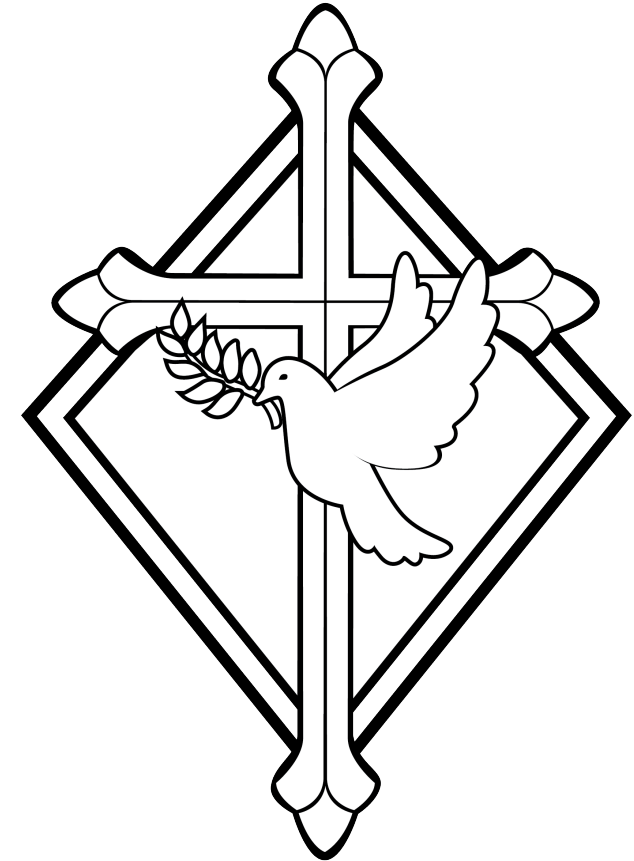
bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- G** (♪) Praise to You, O Christ.

Exaudi

The Sixth Sunday after Easter

✠ Sunday 21 May Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



I will pour out...a Spirit of grace and pleas for mercy.

—Zechariah 10:10

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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