

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

We bless the Holy Trinity—the Lord of heaven and earth, the God of our fathers (*Gradual*)—because He is the God who has mercy on us. (*Introit*) Just as His Being is beyond our understanding, even more so is His mercy. (*Epistle*) That mercy comes to us most pointedly in the waters of Holy Baptism. (*Gospel*) And that mercy delivered by the Holy Father in the blood of the Holy Son through the Holy Spirit gives us the ability and boldness to confess the true faith. (*Chief Hymn*) So our prayer is that this Triune God would continue and keep us steadfast in this Faith. (*Collect*)

Introit

Psalm 8:1-2a, 3-5; antiphon: Liturgical text



P Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity. *

Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mer- | cy to us.

P O | Lord, our Lord, *

how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!

G You have set Your glory above the | heavens. *

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have es- | tablished strength.

P When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your | fingers, *
the moon and the stars, which You have | set in place,

G what is man that You are mind- | ful of him, *
and the son of man that You | care for him?

P Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings *
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

G 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 Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided | Unity. *

Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mer- | cy to us.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who has given to us, Your servants, grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity, we beseech You that You would keep us steadfast in this faith and evermore to defend us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 6:1-7

In those days: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Liturgical text

P Blessed are You, O Lord, who be- | holds the deep, *
and who dwells between the | cherubim.

G Blessed are You, O Lord, in the firmament of | heaven, *
and greatly to be praised for- | ever.

Athanasian Creed

p. 319, front of the hymnal

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33-36

Brethren: Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Divine Service, Setting Three

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements

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Invocation; Confession.pp184-85

✠ Service of the Word ✠

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Nicene Creed.....p. 191

↓ Chief Hymn.....498

Sermon.....Nothing is Neutral

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✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

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Benedicamus;Benediction..p. 202

Closing Hymn.....941

↑ - 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.

Alleluia and Verse

Liturgical Text



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

☐ Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our | father,*
and greatly to be praised and glorified for | ever.



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

St John 3:1-15

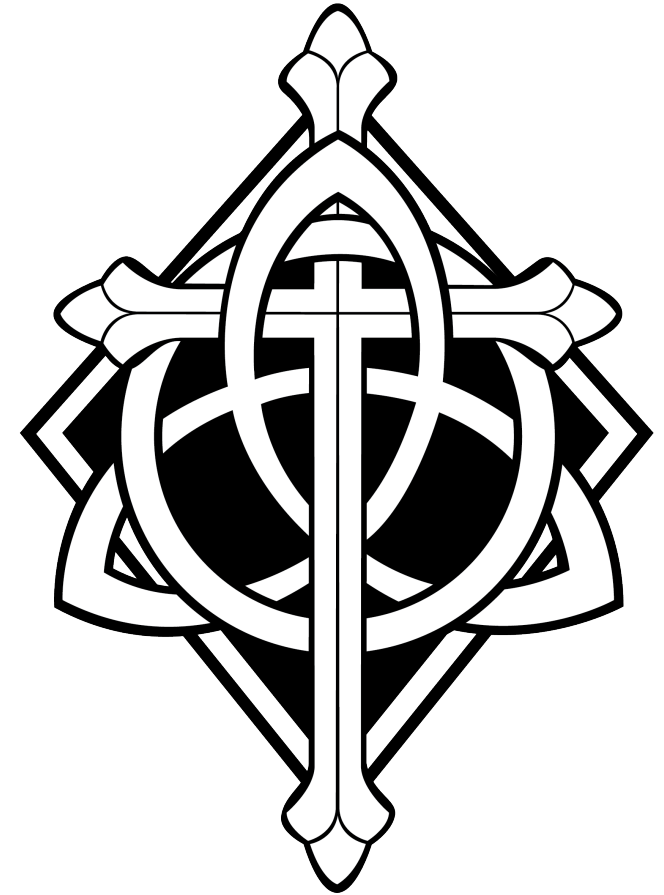
- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the third chapter.
☐ (♪) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time: There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

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

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

✠ Sunday 4 June Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!
—Isaiah 6:3

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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