

## The Theme of Today's Liturgy

After Gabriel appears to Mary, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptizer (*Gospel*). By faith they know their miraculous conceptions means the winter of sin is past and the spring of new birth into eternal life has come (*Old Testament*). We who have been made partakers of the great things done to us by our Redeemer seek to live in kindly affection for one another in thanksgiving for God raising us up from our lowly state because we do not want to return to the evil ways from which we were delivered (*Epistle*).

### Introit

*Psalm 45:1-2; antiphon Psalm 45:12b, 14-15*



**P** The rich among the people will seek Your favor. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many | colors; \*  
the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You with gladness and re- | joicing.

**P** My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concern- | ing the King; \*  
my tongue is the pen of a ready | writer.

**C** You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured up- | on Your lips. \*  
Therefore God has blessed You for- | ever.

**C** 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** The rich among the people will seek Your favor. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many | colors; \*  
the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You with gladness and re- | joicing.

### Collect of the Day

Grant, we implore You, O Lord, to Your servants the gift of Your heavenly grace that, as the Son of the Virgin Mary has made us partakers of salvation, we may daily grow in grace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Old Testament Reading

*Song of Solomon 2:8-14*

Behold, my beloved comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; he is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Isaiah 11:1, 10*

**P** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of | Jesse, \*  
and a Branch shall grow out | of his roots.

**C** And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the | people; \*  
for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be | glorious.

### Epistle Reading

*Romans 12:9-16*

Brethren: Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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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:

Please 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 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 unbaptized 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

Luke 1: 42, 44



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

☐ Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb.

for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.



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

## Holy Gospel Reading

St. Luke 1:39-56

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

☐ (♪) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time: Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☐ (♪) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

✠ Sunday 2 July Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



He has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

—Luke 1:49

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

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