

The Theme of Today’s Liturgy

We desire and earnestly pray that we may have “the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right.” (*Collect*) That Spirit does not come from our heartfelt desire to do good. Rather, that Spirit is the Holy Spirit whom we have received – the Spirit which adopts us as children of God. (*Epistle*) It is the Spirit who delivers into us the sure strong Word (Jesus) who enables us to do the will of the Father. (*Gospel*) Not by heavy demands, but by the Lord’s loving-kindness given in His Church (*Introit*)—that is how this healthful Spirit of grace works in us the good for which we pray.

Introit Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14; antiphon: Psalm 48:9-10



- P** We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of Your | temple. \*  
As Your name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.  
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.
- P** Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised \*  
in the city of our God, His holy | mountain.
- C** Within her | citadels \*  
God has made Himself known as a | fortress.
- P** Let Mount Zion | be glad! \*  
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your | judgments!
- C** This is God, our God, forever and | ever. \*  
He will guide us 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** We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of Your | temple. \*  
As Your name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.  
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

Collect of the Day

Grant to us Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; 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

Jeremiah 23:16-29

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You shall have peace” ’; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’ ” For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury—a violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. “I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings. Am I a God near at hand,” says the LORD, “And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD. “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” says the LORD Almighty.

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

Gradual

Psalm 31:2b, 1a

- P** Be a Rock of ref- | uge for me, \*  
a strong Fortress to | save me!
- C** In You, O Lord, do I take | refuge; \*  
let me never be | put to shame.

Divine Service, Setting One

✠ Preparation ✠

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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:*

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.

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 8:12-17*

Brethren: We are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel Reading

*St Matthew 7:15-23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the seventh chapter.

**G** (♪) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

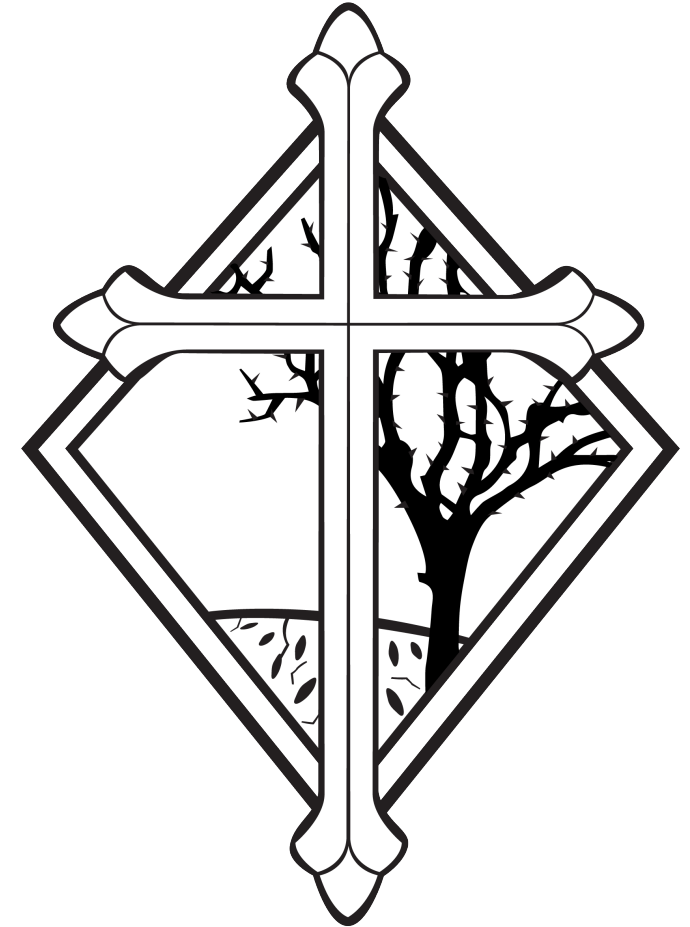
At that time Jesus said to His disciples: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

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

**G** (♪) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

✠ Sunday 30 July Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

—Ephesians 5:8

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A congregation of the English District,  
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