

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Our prayer today is Daniel's prayer: "We do not present our supplications before You because of our righteousness, but because of Your great mercy." (*Dn 9.18*) Our desire is that we go to our homes justified by God. (*Gospel*) And our confidence is that God our Father will give us His mercy in an abundance that both forgives us our sins and gives us all things. (*Collect*) God demonstrates His mercy when He scatters our enemies (*Introit*) and when He raises Christ and us from sin and death. (*Epistle*) This is the grace of God that makes us what we are – beloved children of God.

Introit

Psalm 68:1, 3, 7a, 10b, 19; antiphon: Psalm 68:5b, 6a, 35b



P God is in His holy habitation; [He] settles the solitary | in a home. *

The God of Israel – He is the one who gives power and strength to His | people.

P God shall arise, His enemies shall be | scattered; *
and those who hate Him shall flee be- | fore Him!

G But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult be- | fore God; *
they shall be jubi- | lant with joy!

P O God, when You went out before Your | people, *
in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the | needy.

G Blessed be the Lord, who daily | bears us up; *
God is our Sal- | vation.

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 God is in His holy habitation; [He] settles the solitary | in a home. *

The God of Israel – He is the one who gives power and strength to His | people.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who is always more ready to hear than we to pray and inclined to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 4:1-15

In those days: Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 28:7b, 1a, 2a

P In [God] my heart trusts, and | I am helped; *
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to Him.

G To You, O Lord, I call; my Rock, be not | deaf to me, *
hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | You for help.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Brethren: I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Divine Service, Setting One

✠ Preparation ✠

Prelude; Announcements
↑ Opening HymnInsert
Invocation; Confession.....p. 151

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introitbulletin
Kyriep. 152-53
Gloria in Excelsisp. 154
Salutationp. 156
Collectsbulletin
↓ Old Testament Reading...bulletin
Gradualbulletin
Epistle Readingbulletin
↑ Alleluiap. 156
Holy Gospel.....bulletin
↓ Chief Hymn.....607
Sermon
↑ Nicene Creedp. 158
Prayer of the Church
↓ Offering Hymn611
↑ Offertorypp 159-60

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

↑ Preface; Proper Preface.....p. 160
Sanctus.....p. 161
Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p. 161
Lord's Prayerp. 162
Words of Our Lord.....p. 162
Pax Dominip. 163
Agnus Deip. 163
↓ Distribution
Distribution Hymns419
616
705
↑ Nunc Dimittisp. 165
Post-Communion Collect...p. 166
Benedictionp. 166
Closing Hymn.....559

↑ - 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.

and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

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

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Luke 18:9-14

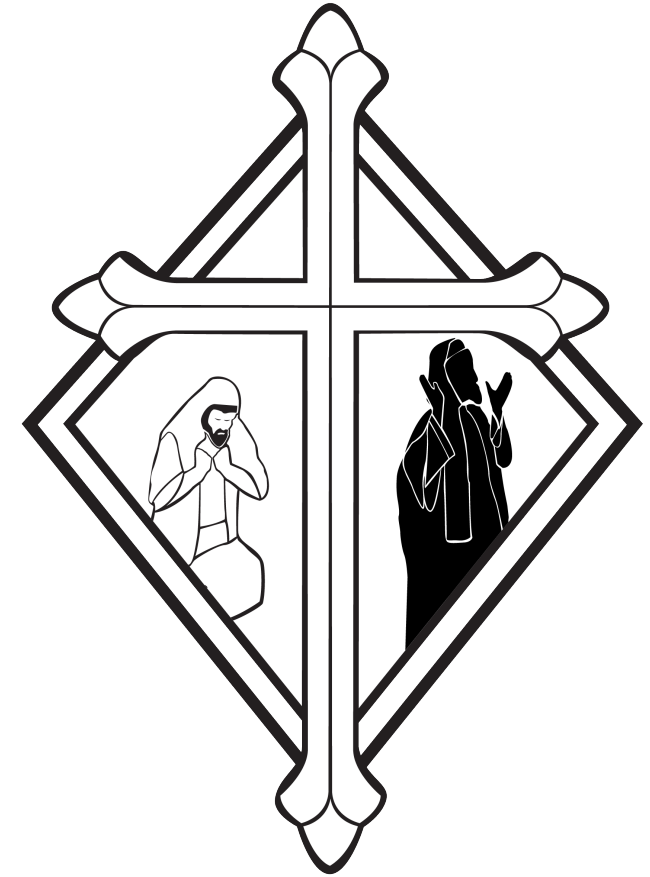
- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the eighteenth chapter.
- C** (🎵) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** (🎵) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

✠ Sunday 20 August Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another.

—1 Peter 5:5

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District,
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