

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

In the face of daily life, the Christian cries out, "Unto You, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (*Introit*). For we are confident that our Lord "preserves [us] evermore by His help and goodness" (*Collect*). That confidence is how we live and walk. It is a life and a walk in the Spirit of God who gives us the courage not to live from our fears and desires, but to live in faith toward God and fervent love toward each other (*Epistle*). For it is a confidence, not in what men or the government gives but solely in what our Lord promises and gives and delivers (*Gradual*).

Introit

Psalm 86:4, 6, 15a, 16; antiphon: Psalm 86:1a, 2b, 3



P Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save Your servant, who trusts in You – You | are my God. *

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to You do I cry | all the day.

P Gladden the soul of Your | servant, *
for to You, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.

G Give ear, O Lord, | to my prayer; *
listen to my | plea for grace.

P But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious; *
turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;

G give Your strength to Your | servant, *
and save the son of Your maid- | servant.

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 Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save Your servant, who trusts in You – You | are my God. *

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to You do I cry | all the day.

Collect of the Day

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church, and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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

1 Kings 17:8-16

In those days: The word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' " So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 118:8-9

P It is better to take refuge | in the Lord *
than to | trust in man.

G It is better to take refuge | in the Lord *
than to trust in | princes.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 5:25 – 6:10

Brethren: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load. Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not

Divine Service, Setting Two

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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.

mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Matthew 6:24-34

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

G (♪) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus said to the disciples, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

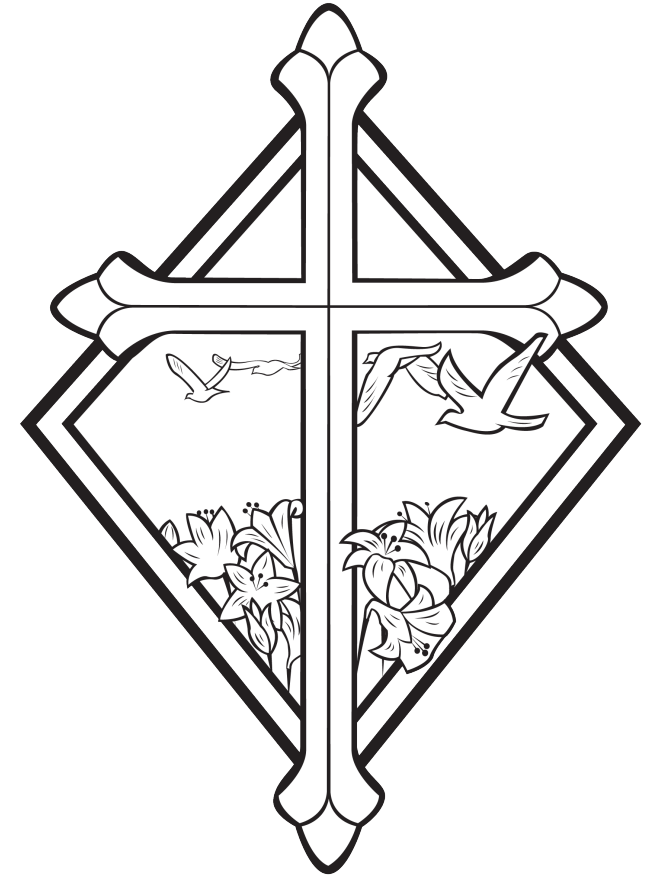
At that time Jesus said to His disciples: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (♪) **Praise To You, O Christ.**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

✠ Sunday 17 September Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

—1 Peter 5:7

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

4219 Parklane/P.O. Box 245 • Dorr, Michigan 49323

www.epiphanydorr.org

Office: (616) 681-0791 • office@epiphanydorr.org

Pastor Beffrey: (216) 965-5959 (cell) • pastor@epiphanydorr.org