

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Today's liturgy focuses on this question: What must I do to inherit eternal life (*Gospel*)? The answer is based first in what Our Lord gives in His faithful and everlasting Testament (*Epistle*). That Testament (covenant) we beg God to respect and remember by lifting us out of the oppression our sin lays on our backs (*Introit, Gradual*). So the testament is Our Lord who saves. From this flows the increase of faith, hope, and love that He gives through His Son (*Collect*). It is this doing of Our Lord, then, that "makes us to love that which He commands" (*Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 74:1-2, 19b, 21b; antiphon: Psalm 74:20a, 21a, 22a, 23a.



P Have regard for the covenant, [O Lord]; let not the downtrodden turn | back in shame. *

Arise, O God, defend Your cause; do not forget the clamor | of Your foes.

P O God, why do You cast us off for- | ever? *

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your | pasture?

C Remember Your congregation, which You have pur- | chased of old, *
which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your | heritage!

P Remember Mount Zion, where | You have dwelt. *

Do not forget the life of Your poor for- | ever. Let the poor and needy | praise Your name.

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 Have regard for the covenant, [O Lord]; let not the downtrodden turn | back in shame. *

Arise, O God, defend Your cause; do not forget the clamor | of Your foes.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and that we may obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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

Leviticus 9:9-18

Thus says the LORD God: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 77:14-15

P You are the God who works | wonders; *

You have made known Your might among the | peoples.

C You with Your arm redeemed Your | people, *
the children of Jacob and | Joseph.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:16-22

Brethren: To Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law

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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.

then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

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

Holy Gospel Reading

St. Luke 10:23-37

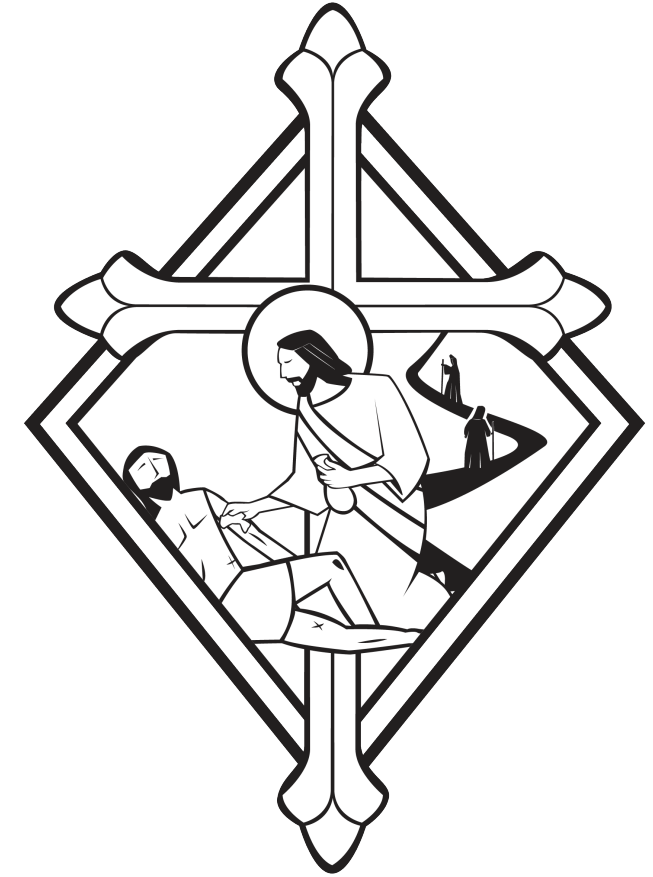
- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the tenth chapter.
- C** (🎵) **Glory To You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus said to His disciples: "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it." And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** (🎵) **Praise To You, O Christ.**

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

✠ Sunday 3 September Anno ✠ Domini 2023 ✠



As you did to the least of these, My brothers, you did it to Me.
—Matthew 25:40

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