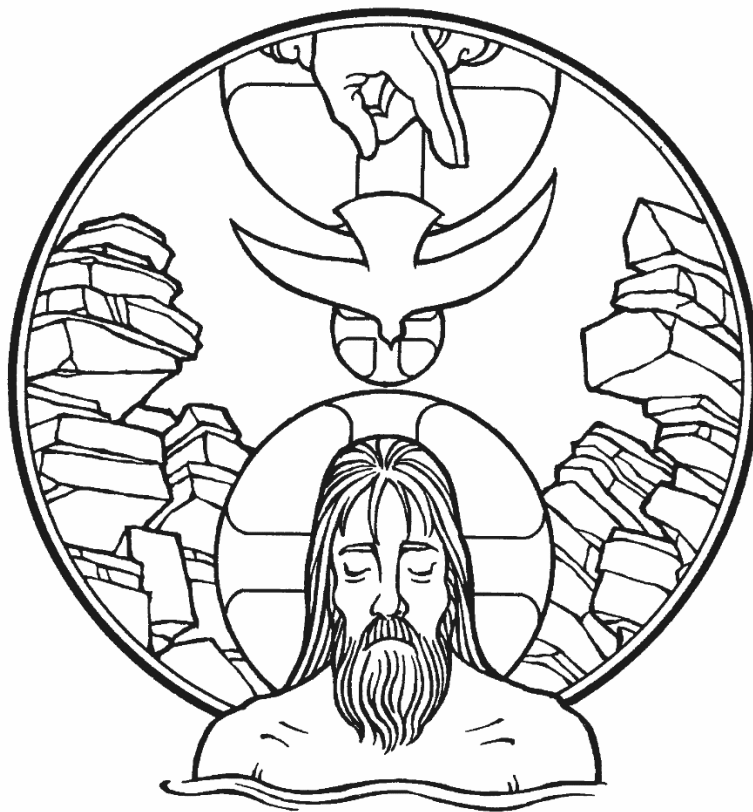


Sunday, January 7th 2024

The Baptism of Our Lord



Shining the light of Christ
in the heart of the pines

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Epiphany Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

In Holy Baptism, the Triune God Reveals Himself and Recreates Us in His Image

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Then, as *“the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”* (Gen. 1:2), God spoke His Word: *“Let there be light, and there was light”* (Gen. 1:3). In the same way, *“the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ”* (Mark 1:1) brings about the new creation through the waters of Baptism by the same Word and Spirit of God. When John the Baptist came, *“proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,”* Jesus also came *“and was baptized by John in the Jordan”* (Mark 1:4, 9). Although He had no sins of His own, He took His stand with sinners in His Baptism and took the sins and mortality of the world upon Himself. He was baptized into His own death, by which the heavens are opened and the Spirit is given to us. God the Father is well pleased with His beloved Son and raises Him from the dead. As we share His Baptism and are *“united with him in a death like his”* (Rom. 6:5), we also share His resurrection unto *“newness of life”* (Rom. 6:4).

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Musician – Susan Michael

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING ONE
WITH COMMUNION**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Opening Hymn

“Thy Strong Word”

LSB 578

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(John 20:19-23)

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Read Together

Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

**Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.**

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.**

**You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**

**Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

**Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

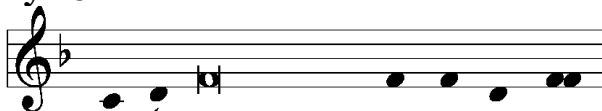
Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;***

***as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

**Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.**

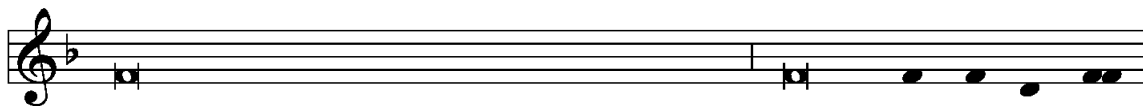
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



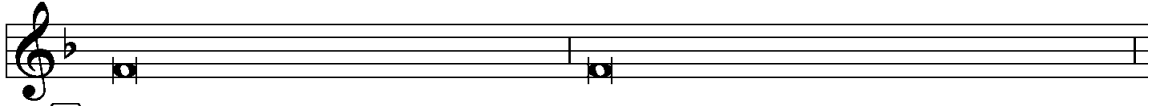
C Lord, have mer - cy.



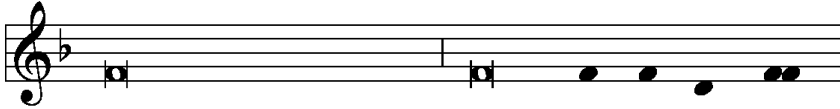
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



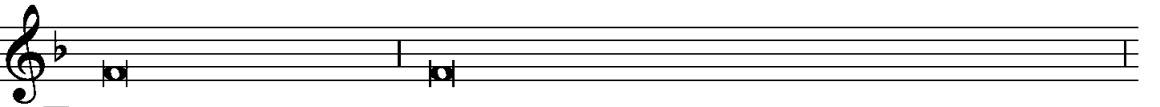
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



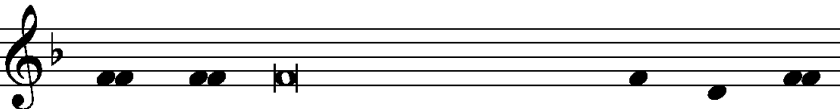
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

"This Is the Feast"

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

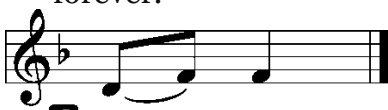
2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.**

**¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

**³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.**

**⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

**⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

**⁷The voice of the LORD
flashes forth flames of fire.**

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

**¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

**³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

☐ This is the Word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *"To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"*

LSB 406

Sermon

Rev. E.B. Holschuh

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,

**God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

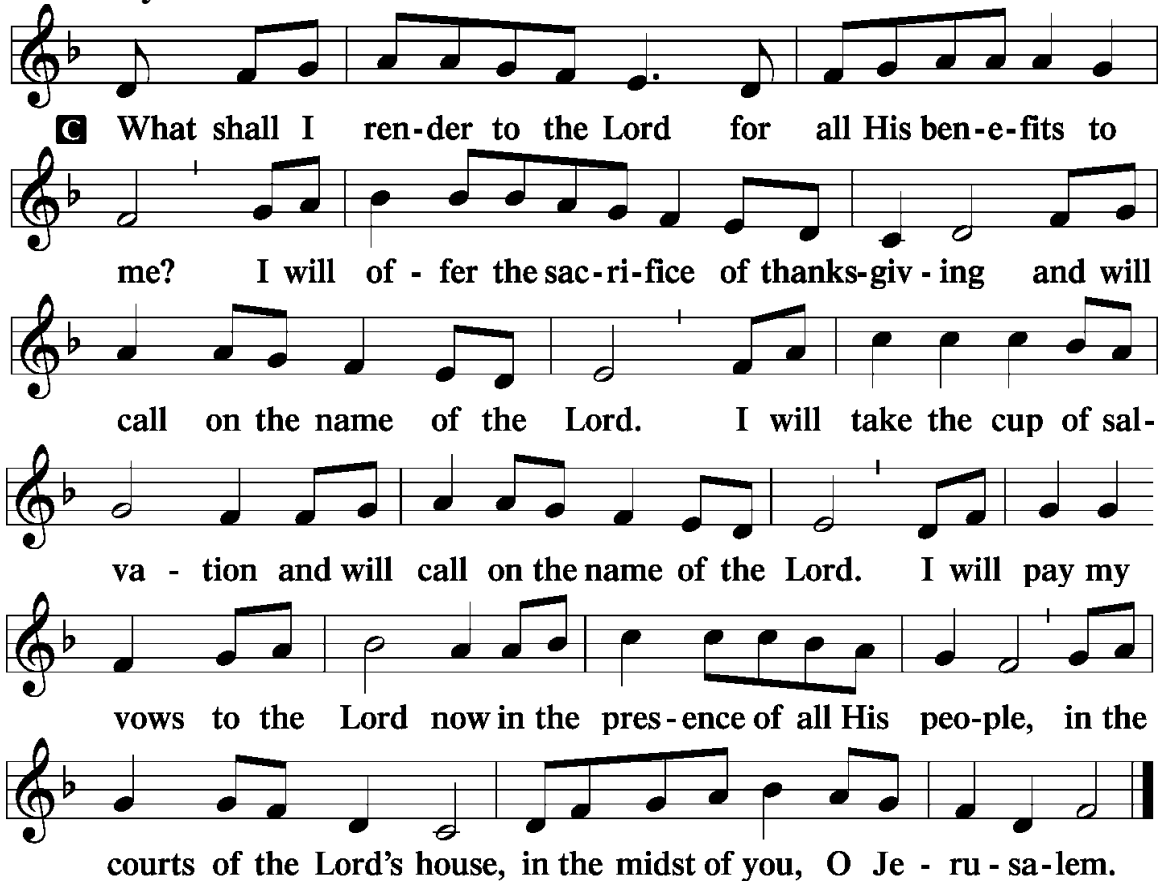
℟ Lord, in Your mercy
℣ hear our prayer.

Offering

(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.)

Usher

Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

Important Information about Holy Communion Today

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which our Lord Jesus Christ gives His true body and blood under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. This Sacrament is also a confession of the unity in faith, doctrine, and practice of those who receive it together.

If you are a confirmed member in good standing of Epiphany Lutheran Church or another congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we welcome you to commune with us today. However, if this is not the case, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak to the pastor. He would be happy to meet with you to talk about the blessings of church membership and arrange for you to be a part of our instruction leading toward reception of Holy Communion at Epiphany.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

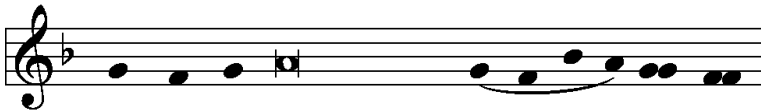


P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

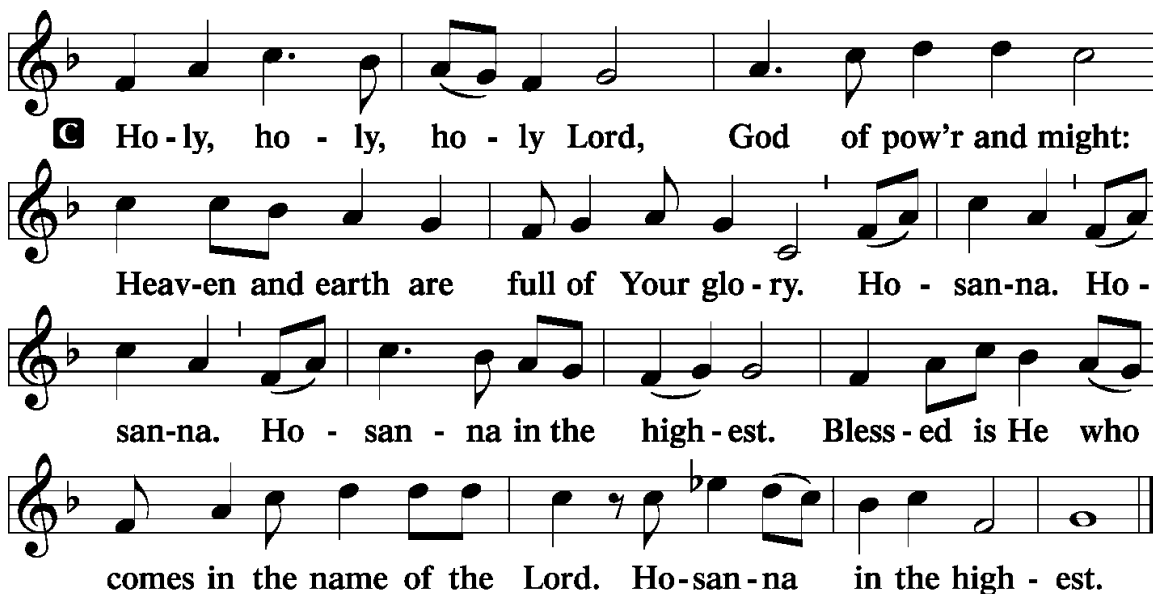


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

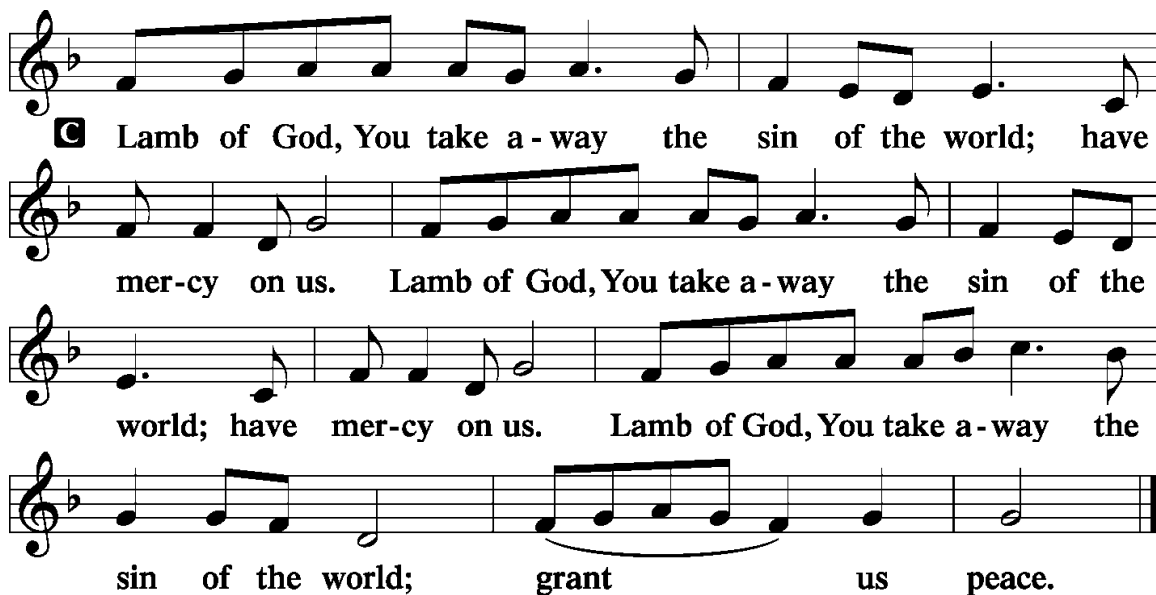
P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

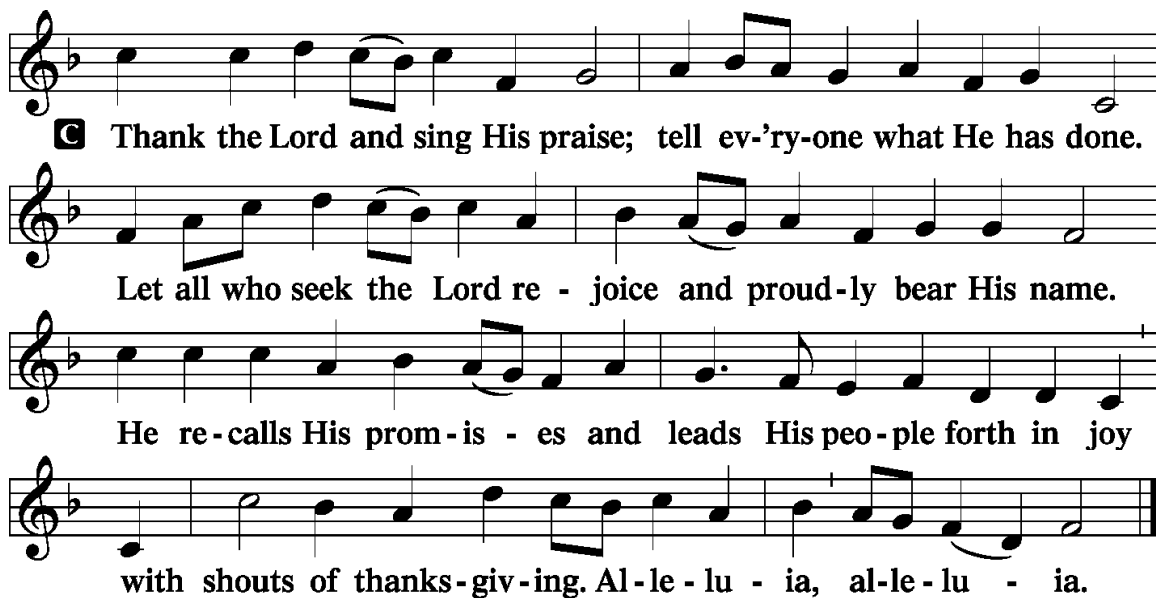


C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn *“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”*

LSB 601

Post-Communion Canticle



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

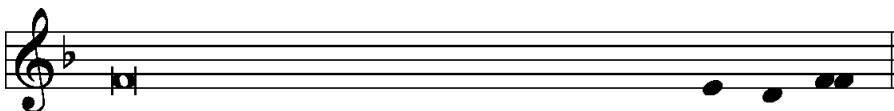
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

LSB 594

Announcements

Postlude

Selected Music

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: Please share any prayer requests that need to be added to this list by sending an email to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org. If you have confidential prayer requests for the pastors to know about, please send an email to pastor@epiphanybastrop.org.

- Kathy Achterberg
- Richard Giro
- David Goeke
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Tonya Hettler
- Deebo and Norma Kunze
- Karen McDougall
- Dr. Charles Wukasch

MISSIONARIES:

- **Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul (Latin America and Caribbean, Cayman Islands)** – Please pray for Gerald and Heidi as they serve the Lord in the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean. Let us give thanks to God that they are serving His people in this part of the world.
- **Rev. Dr. Tom Park (Asia, Taiwan)** – Pray for Tom as he serves in Taiwan. Ask God to give good health to him and to his mother, who still lives in South Korea, so that Tom can carry out his responsibilities without distraction. Pray for Tom as he studies Mandarin, so he may speak fluently as he shares the Gospel. Pray also that God would open the hearts of the Taiwanese people to heed Tom's preaching and teaching so that all might come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Let us give thanks to God that Tom is serving His children in this part of the world.
- **The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church** – Pray for Bishop Lytkin and the pastors who serve in what is one of the poorest regions of Russia as they raise monetary support for its congregations and pastors, as well as its seminary, which is one of only two remaining Lutheran seminaries (out of eleven founded after the fall of the Soviet Union) in all of Russia.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, January 7th

- 10:00am – Bible Class
- 10:00am – Sunday School
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, January 14th

- 10:00am – Bible Class
 - 10:00am – Sunday School
 - 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
 - 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
-

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, January 14th – “How Could She Ever Forgive Him?” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Zeigler explains why it’s not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Blessed Epiphany! Begin studying 2 Corinthians on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), begin a new series on the history of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod with Dr. Cameron Mackenzie on The Coffee Hour (1/10 at 9:00 a.m. CT), and begin studying Ephesians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or the KFUE Radio app!

Sanctity of Life: We are created, preserved, and protected by our Father. Christ Jesus died and rose to redeem every life and the Holy Spirit strengthens us to love every life as someone for whom Christ died. Viewing life as valuable shapes our worldview and guides Christians to uphold the lives of the vulnerable. Christians are faced with issues of abortion, euthanasia, and physician assisted suicide. We come to these and other issues with a theology of life – life for all. As the Body of Christ, we seek to preserve every life created by God and value every life, whether the world sees them as valuable or not. The value given to life comes not from the world, but from the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of the world, our Holy and gracious God. Resources have been created to aid in education of congregations and institutions, advocacy for those vulnerable to loss of life, and service to all God’s created people: <https://makingdisciples-resources.lcms.org/sanctity-of-life-issues/#resources>.



These days, conducting class at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is sometimes difficult as professors turn to online means to provide pastoral instruction to students, especially those close to the conflict in Ukraine and those who are seeking instruction in countries surrounding Russia. Please continue to pray for the seminary and the *Save the Seminary Campaign* efforts. Your prayers mean so much, and your financial support is a genuine encouragement for the campaign team as we continue to build an endowment for the seminary. Learn more on our website, savetheseminary.org.

Please make your contribution at: savetheseminary.org, or use this QR Code.
