

Sunday, January 21st 2024

Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Shining the light of Christ
in the heart of the pines

Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

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(on the SDA campus)
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Bastrop, TX 78602**

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facebook.com/epiphanybastrop**

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:

The Lord Calls Us to Himself by the Preaching of Repentance in His Name

When “*the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time,*” sending him to preach judgment against the great city of Nineveh, “*Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD*” (Jonah 3:1, 3). By this preaching, the people were brought to repentance. Because they “*believed God,*” as He spoke to them through His prophet, “*they turned from their evil way*” and were spared “*the disaster that he had said he would do to them*” (Jonah 3:5, 10). St. Paul also warns that “*the appointed time has grown very short*” (1 Cor. 7:29). Therefore, while we live in this world and deal with it, we are not to cling to it, nor put our trust in it, for “*the present form of this world is passing away*” (1 Cor. 7:31). Rather, give “*your undivided devotion to the Lord*” (1 Cor. 7:35). When our Lord Jesus Christ comes and is proclaimed in the Gospel, “*the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand*” (Mark 1:14–15). Therefore, He still calls men and sends them to become “*fishers of men*” with the net of that Gospel (Mark 1:17).

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Gina Sanders

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING ONE
WITH COMMUNION**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 656

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

Psalms 113:1-2, 4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 3

**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!
Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
Blessèd be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!
The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!
He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
*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.*
**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!****

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.

P 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.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious 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.

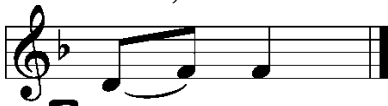
2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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.

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

**¹For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.**

**²He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be greatly shaken.**

**³How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?**

**⁴They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.**

**⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.**

**⁶He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress;
I shall not be shaken.**

**⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

**⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

**⁹Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;**

they are together lighter than a breath.

**¹⁰Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.**

**¹¹Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,**

**¹²and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.
For you will render to a man
according to his work.**

***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.***

**⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



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.

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**”

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “**Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

LSB 839

Sermon

“The Kingdom of God”
Mark 1:14-20

Rev. E. B. Holschuh

Nicene Creed

**☐ 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.**

Passing of the Peace

When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy

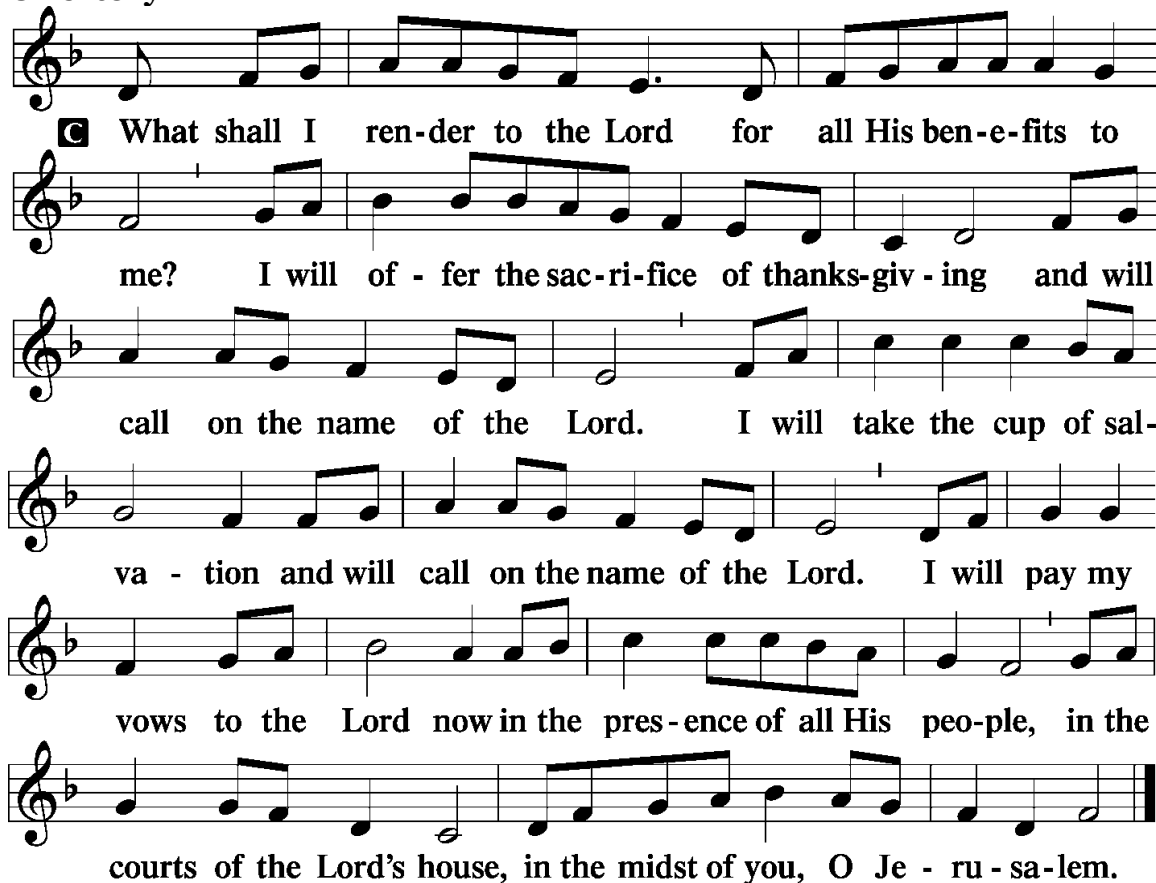
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.

Offertory



C 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



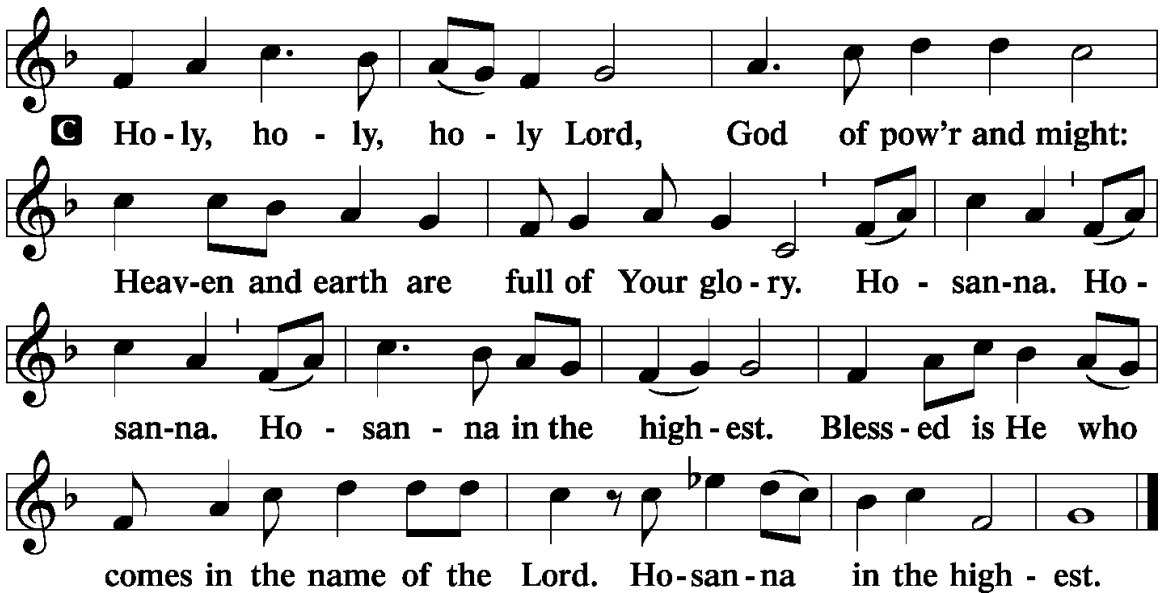
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation

of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✠** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✠** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

John 20:19

Pax Domini

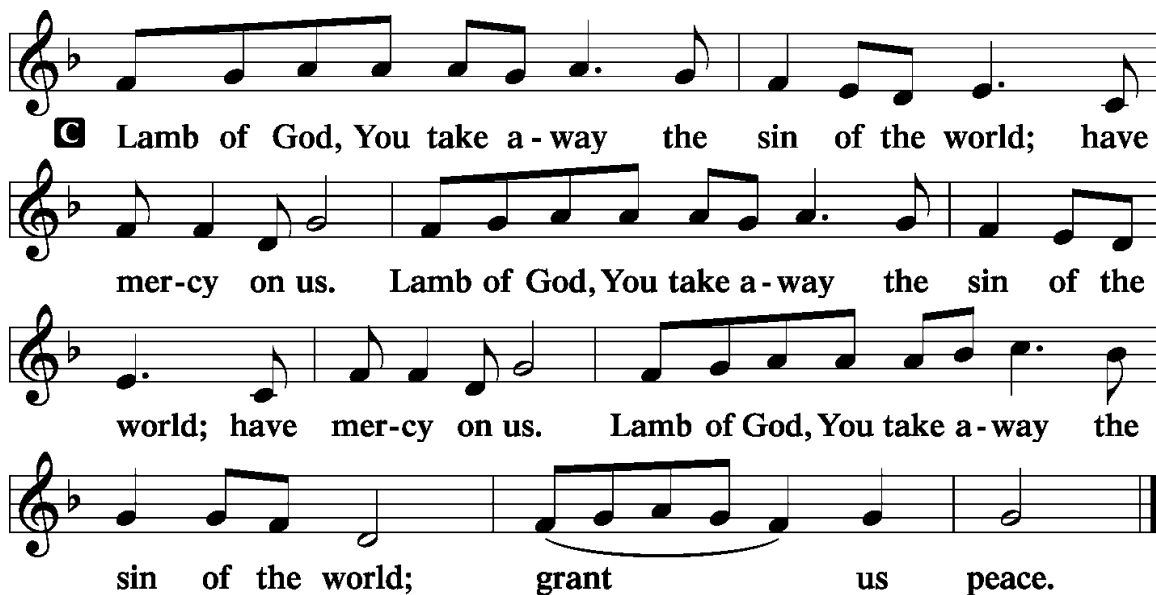
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



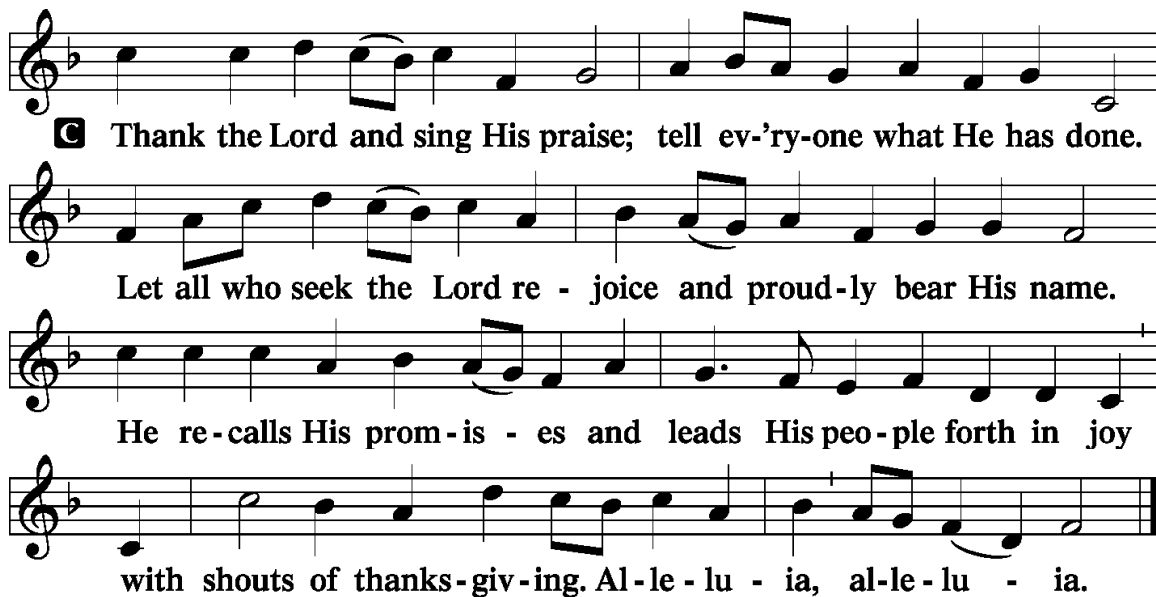
C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

“What Is the World to Me”

LSB 730

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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

“O God of Light”

LSB 836

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
- David Goeke
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Tonya Hettler
- Deebo and Norma Kunze
- Karen McDougall
- Elaine Ottinger
- Dr. Charles Wukasch

MISSIONARIES:

- **Britt Odemba (Africa, Kenya)** – Pray for Britt as she continues to serve in Kenya. Ask God to guide her and her husband, Micah, as they raise their children, Rael and Silas, in the Christian faith. Pray for the *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* program and that the children may continue to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pray that God continues to bless the efforts of the staff at Karama Academy. Let us give thanks to God that Britt continues to serve in Kenya.
- **James and Christel Neuendorf (Latin America and Caribbean, Puerto Rico)** – Pray for the Neuendorfs as they serve in Puerto Rico. Ask God to work through James and Christel to bring the Good News to people who are desperate for words of hope. Pray for their safety and for wisdom as they navigate the challenges of church planting in the midst of disaster recovery. Finally, pray for the first generation of Lutherans in Ponce, Puerto Rico, that they may faithfully carry on the torch to other cities and generation to come!
- **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 21st

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

Sunday, January 28th

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

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, January 28th – “Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. Forgiveness is a gift Christ won for us on a cross, thousands of miles away and two thousand years ago. (Psalm 103:11-12)

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 KFUO.org: Hear Mental Health Monday and the 3rd episode in the LCMS History Series on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT), study 2 Corinthians 6-9 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and study all of Colossians and the beginning of Lamentations on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or the KFUO 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.



Happy New Year!!

Faith Lutheran High School wishes you and your family a very Happy New Year! We pray God would shower blessings upon you in the year ahead! Thank you for being a blessing to FLHS!

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to Friday, March 8, 2024 will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at www.flhstx.org.

Raffle Items

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

Free Wednesday Mornings?

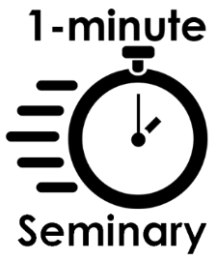
Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am.

End of Year Giving

Thank you for your support of Faith Lutheran High School during our End of Year giving. We were blessed through generous contributions from many of you. We are still accepting donations if you missed out but would like to support the ministry and growth of FLHS.

Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!



The Means of Grace

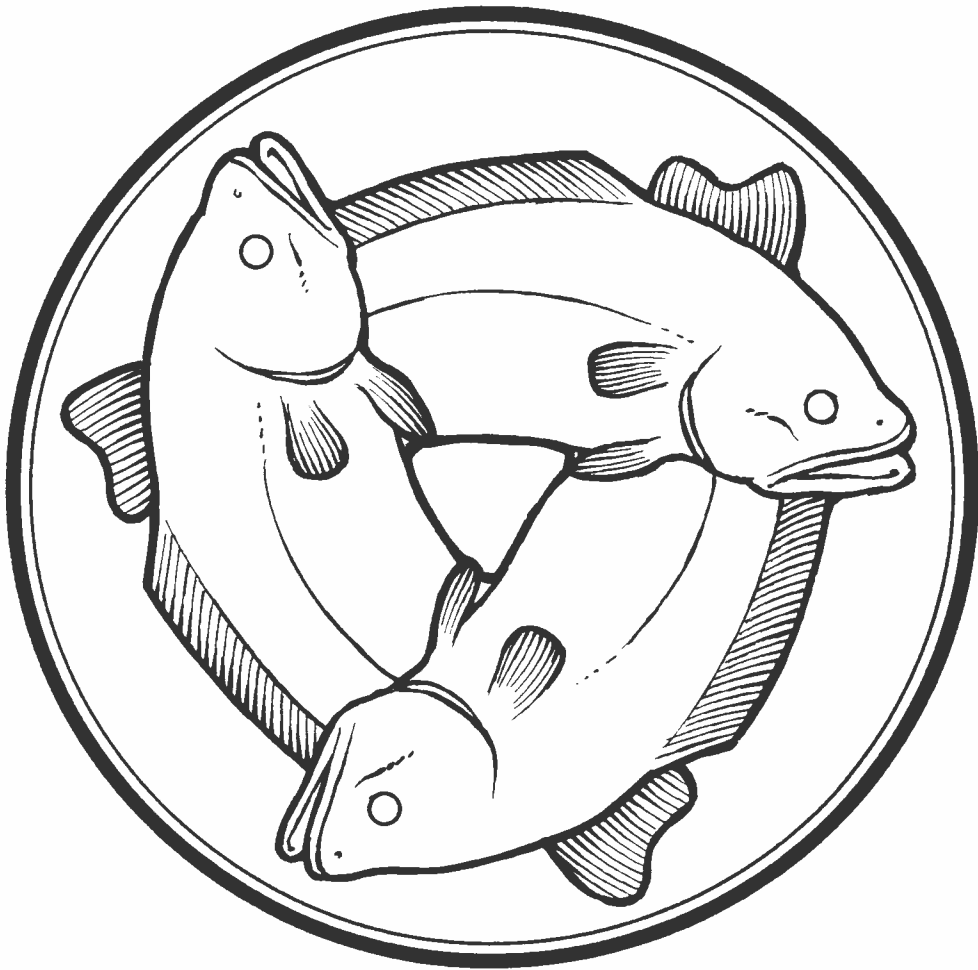
As Martin Luther carried out his reformation, there were other reform movements at work throughout Europe (Anabaptists, Zwinglians, Calvinists). He was often critical of these other movements. He opposed them for their lack of trust in the power of the Word and sacraments to give and sustain faith. He used a term to describe them: *Schwärmer*. Literally, the word means "one who buzzes about." In English, the word is usually translated as *enthusiast*. These were people and groups who "buzzed around" looking for the Spirit in their own feelings or thinking. They denied the power of the gospel, especially in the sacraments.

Luther recognized that God is very clear how he works to create and strengthen faith in the hearts of people. Faith comes from hearing the good news about Jesus (Romans 10:17). This gospel gives salvation by bringing people to believe in Jesus (Romans 1:16). The gospel message is in the form of both the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15,16) and the sacraments (Ephesians 5:26). Through these tools, the Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith in Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; Titus 3:4-7). The gospel is the means through which the Spirit pours out God's grace on individuals.

Luther trusted that the means of grace has the power to work the needed change in people's hearts. He once preached: "I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything" (*Luther's Works* Vol. 51, p. 77).

True Lutherans continue to trust in the power of the means of grace. We don't look for the Spirit to somehow zap faith into people's hearts without the gospel. We don't try to force people into "deciding for Christ" or attempt to argue people into heaven. We trust that the Holy Spirit "calls me by the gospel" (Small Catechism). The Augsburg Confession states: "To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel. It teaches that we have a gracious God, not through our merit but through Christ's merit, when we so believe" (Article V).

For true Lutherans, the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the sacraments is at the heart of the Christian's life and the church's work because the means of grace is how the Spirit changes hearts.



And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
Mark 1:17