Sunday, February 2nd 2025 **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH BASTROP

Shining the light of Christ in the heart of the pines

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489 Agnes
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Bastrop, TX 78602

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(on the SDA campus)
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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.

OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod believes the biblical teaching that in communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the biblical teaching of communion, and if you agree with our confession of faith, please feel free to commune with us. If you have any questions, please speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Susan Michael
Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Rosie Cabrera
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. *"As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD"* (1 Sam. 1:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to *"destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery"* (Heb. 2:14b–15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do *"in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced. We also rejoice, for we, too, can face death unafraid and *"depart in peace"* (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.

Divine Service
Setting Four

Prelude Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn *"Son of God, Eternal Savior"* LSB 842

(stand)

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth**. *Psalm 124:8*
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.
C **Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 10:16-18

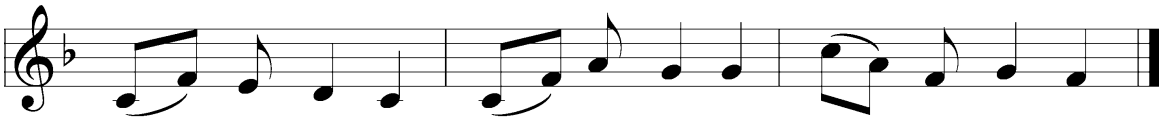
P The Lord is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.

C **O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;**
you will strengthen their heart;

P you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

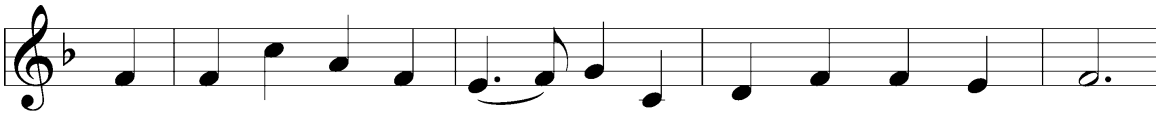
C ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son***
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie *Mark 10:47*

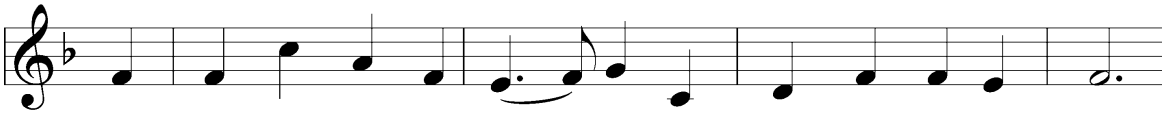


C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

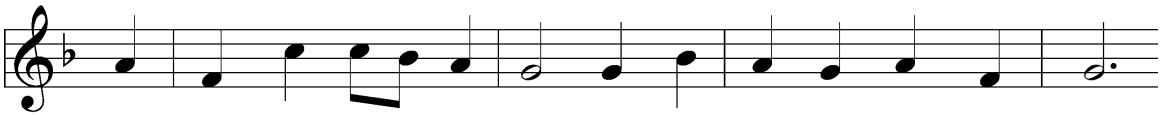
Gloria in Excelsis *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



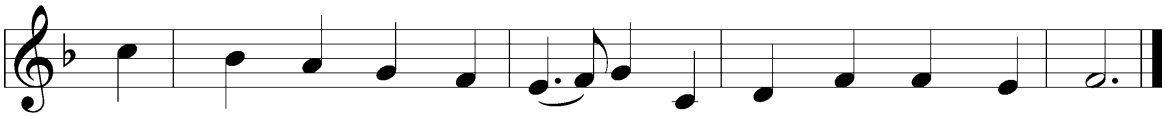
C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,
5"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
6Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." 7But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a youth';
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak.
8Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the Lord."
9Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me,
"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.
10See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to break down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

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

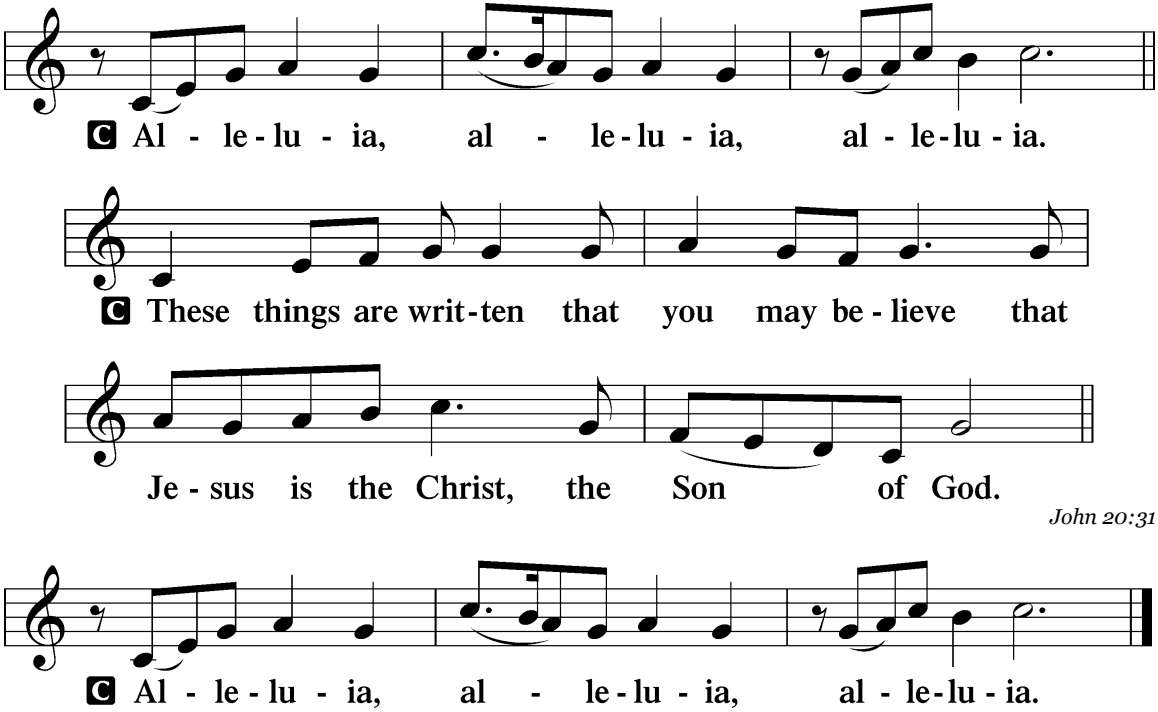
Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way.
1If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
4Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
13So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Reading Luke 4:31-44

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

31[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching
them on the Sabbath, 32and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word
possessed authority. 33And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit
of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34"Ha! What have you to
do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you
are—the Holy One of God." 35But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come
out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came
out of him, having done him no harm. 36And they were all amazed and said to one
another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the
unclean spirits, and they come out!" 37And reports about him went out into every
place in the surrounding region.

38And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now
Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her
behalf. 39And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and
immediately she rose and began to serve them.

40Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with
various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them
and healed them. 41And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son
of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they
knew that he was the Christ.

42And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the
people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving
them, 43but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God
to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44And he was
preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *"Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"* LSB 706

Sermon *There are No Ball Hogs in Christ* 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

(stand)

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. 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.

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C **hear our prayer.**

Offering

Usher

Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.

If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

For those unfamiliar with our congregation's practice regarding the Lord's Supper, please refer to "Our Communion Policy" located at the beginning of the bulletin.

(stand)

Preface

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C **And also with you.**

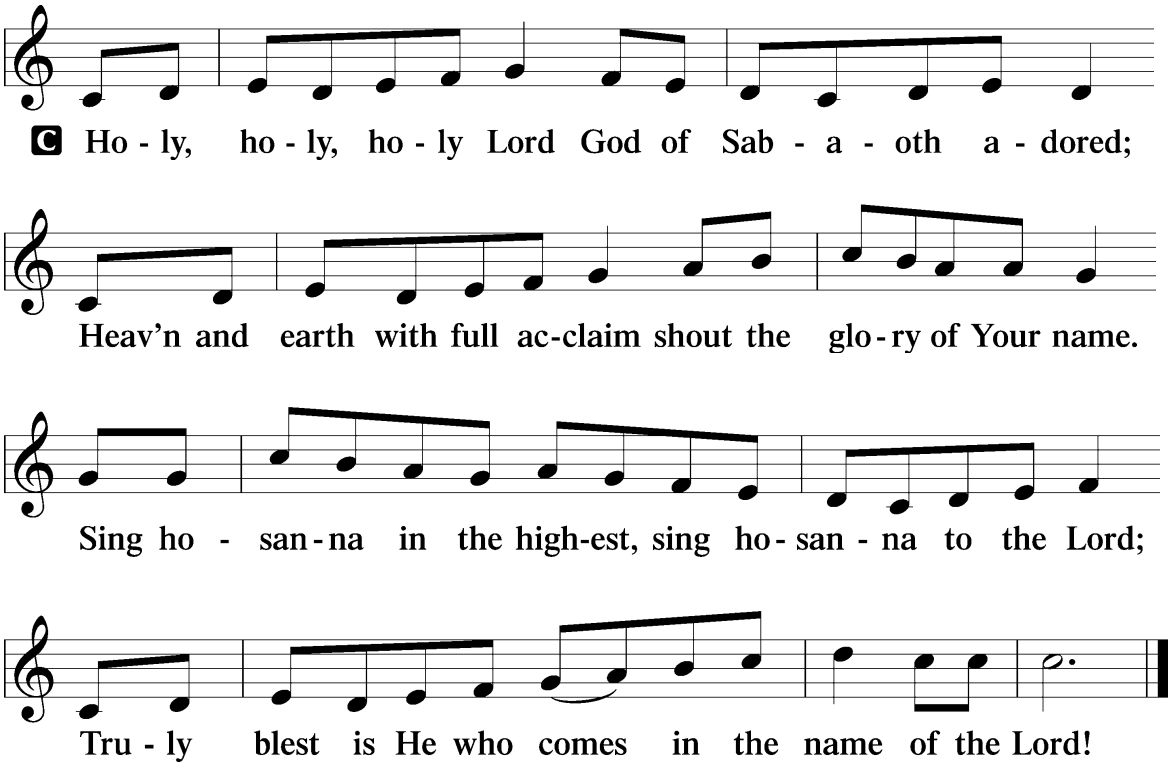
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

The Words of Our Lord

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

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."

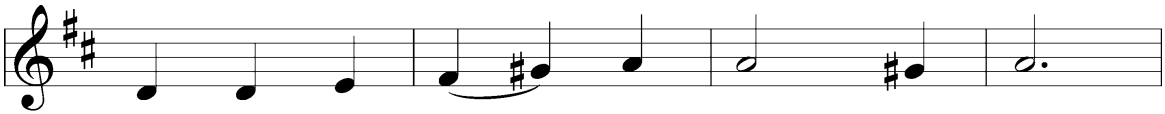
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

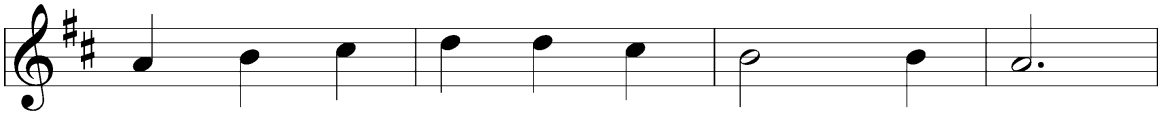
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

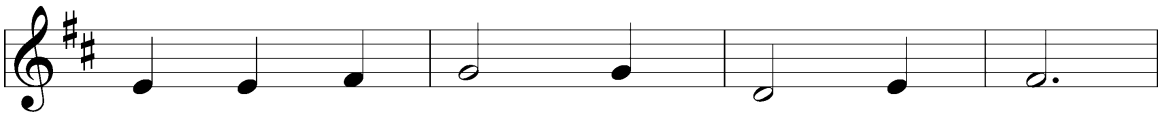
Agnus Dei *John 1:29*



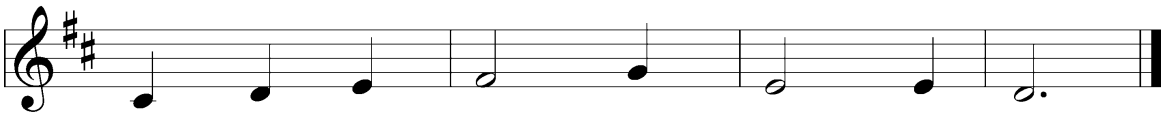
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

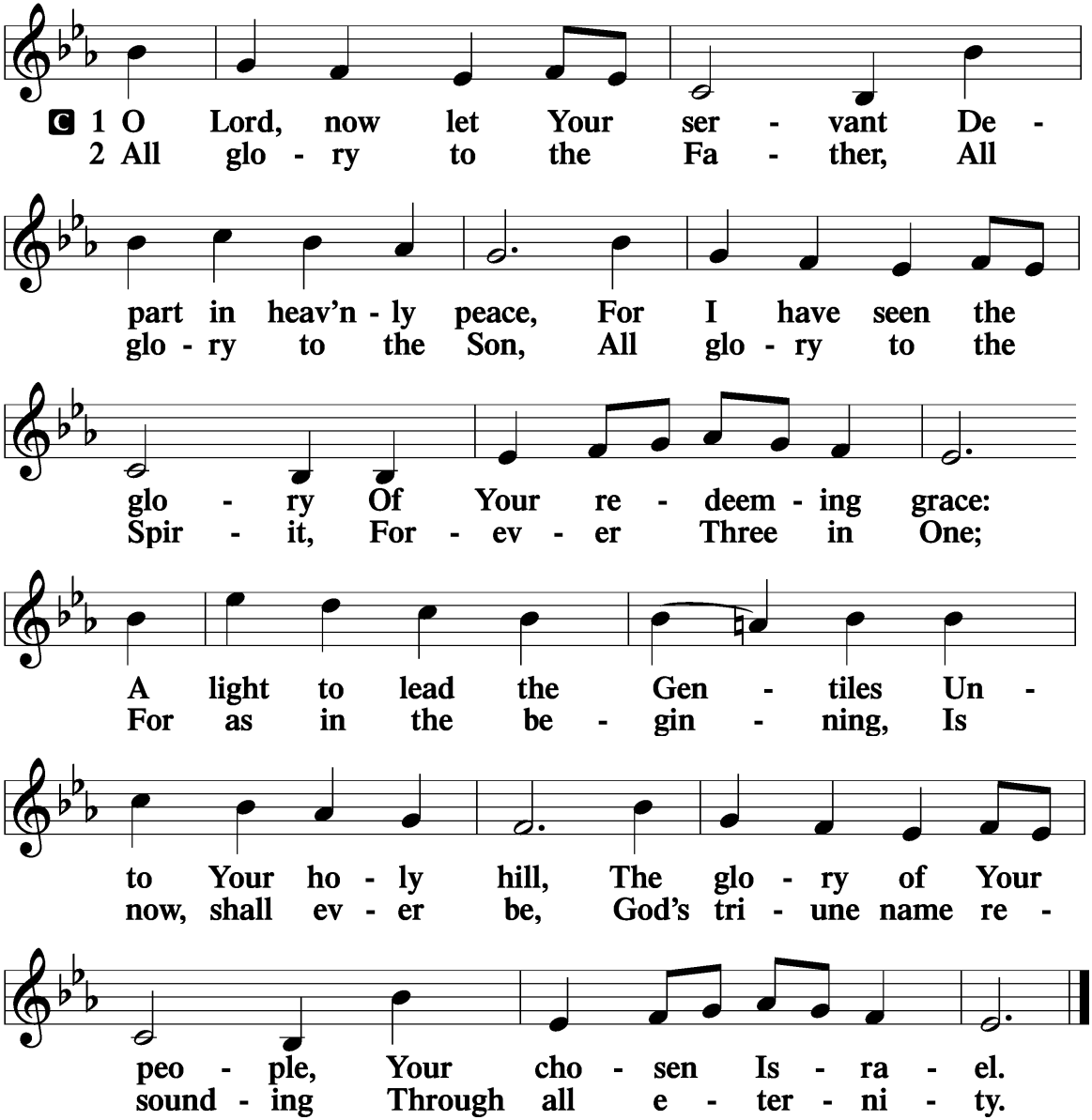
(sit)

Distribution Hymn *"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"* LSB 849

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



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 **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord. *[Psalm 103:1]*

C **Thanks be to God.**

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C **Amen.**

(sit)

Closing Hymn *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"* LSB 845

P Go in Peace!

C **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.

SERMON NOTES: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

There are No Ball Hogs in Christ

1. Without _____, even the most extraordinary _____ _____ is worthless.
2. In contemporary culture, _____ is often seen as an emotion-driven, permissive, and _____ experience that justifies _____ desires and behaviors.
3. The _____ that faces us every day: Who is going to be _____ in our lives? _____ or me?
4. Even while _____ and _____ on the _____, Jesus counted you more highly than he counted himself.
5. A church _____ is a working _____ in which people count _____ more highly than themselves.
6. _____ enables us to use whatever _____ God has given us in the _____ of others.

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for…

- Rev. Dr. Arthur and Deaconess Eva Rickman and their 7 children, Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel, Mary Anna, Adelheid, and Hannah - missionaries in Latin America, based in Panama
- Lisa and Ethan Clontz
- The family and friends of Richard Mouser's father
- Shane Boyd
- Roy Hanson
- Robert Trevino

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless– it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).

Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

New Thursday 6pm Zoom Study begins on February 13! Join us for ***Hebrews – Timeless Truths***, a 13-week look at the entire (13 chapters) of the New Testament book of Hebrews. We'll look at the practical application of each chapter of Hebrews as we seek to understand more deeply the heart, will, intent and design of our Heavenly Father, the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus, and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our world today. Register: bit.ly/ELC-Hebrews

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Make Every Day Count devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop will meet this month on Tuesday at 3pm on the 4th and the 18th.

The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 34 - Mon 2/3: Leviticus 14-15, Psalm 34
- Day 35 - Tue 2/4: Leviticus 16-18, Psalm 35
- Day 36 - Wed 2/5: Leviticus 19-20, Psalm 36
- Day 37 - Thu 2/6: Leviticus 21-23, Psalm 37
- Day 38 - Fri 2/7: Leviticus 24-25, Psalm 38
- Day 39 - Sat 2/8: Leviticus 26-27, Psalm 39
- Day 40 - Sun 2/9: Numbers 1-4, Psalm 40

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, February 9th – "We Have an Advocate" – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate. (John 5:6)

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. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7:00am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at **kfuo.org** and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on AM850 & KFUO.org: We continue in the book of Isaiah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT) and Job on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Tune in to the Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT) to hear this month's episode of Searching Scripture, and join us as we revisit National Lutheran Schools week with some special segments! Find your favorite programs on demand at **kfuo.org** or on the KFUO Radio app!

RightNow Media: We're excited to share that Epiphany Lutheran Church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** that can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in the family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. For FREE access to RightNow Media, visit **app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb** or scan the QR code.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, February 2nd

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Tuesday, February 4th

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

Sunday, February 9th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Answers to Sermon Notes:

1. Without ***love***, even the most extraordinary ***spiritual gift*** is worthless.
2. In contemporary culture, ***love*** is often seen as an emotion-driven, permissive, and ***subjective*** experience that justifies ***personal*** desires and behaviors.
3. The ***temptation*** that faces us every day: Who is going to be ***first*** in our lives? ***God*** or me?
4. Even while ***suffering*** and ***dying*** on the ***Cross***, Jesus counted you more highly than he counted himself.
5. A church ***family*** is a working ***body*** in which people count ***others*** more highly than themselves.
6. ***Love*** enables us to use whatever ***gifts*** God has given us in the ***service*** of others.

St. Paul and the Corinthians

The Apostle Paul's relationship with the new Christian converts in Corinth was both significant and complex. Corinth was a major commercial and cultural hub in ancient Greece, known for its wealth, diversity, and moral challenges. Paul founded the church in Corinth during his second missionary journey (around 50–52 AD) and stayed there for about 18 months (Acts 18:1–18).

However, after Paul left, the Corinthian church faced numerous issues, prompting him to write multiple letters to address them. The two surviving letters, *1 Corinthians* and *2 Corinthians*, reveal his deep concern for their spiritual health.

Paul wrote *1 Corinthians* around 54–55 AD while he was in Ephesus during his third missionary journey (Acts 19:1–41). This letter was a response to reports from Chloe's household (1 Corinthians 1:11) and a letter from the Corinthian church seeking guidance on various issues (1 Corinthians 7:1). His goal was to address divisions, moral problems, and questions about Christian living and worship.

Paul wrote *2 Corinthians* around 55–56 AD, likely from Macedonia (possibly Philippi). This letter was written after *1 Corinthians* and a painful visit to Corinth, during which Paul faced strong opposition (2 Corinthians 2:1; 7:8–12). After receiving a positive report from Titus about the church's repentance (2 Corinthians 7:6–7), Paul wrote *2 Corinthians* to encourage reconciliation, defend his apostolic authority, and urge generosity in giving.

There are several key themes in Paul's correspondence with the Christians in Corinth: Divisions and factions—the church was divided over leadership (1 Corinthians 1:10–17), with some following Paul, Apollos, or Peter; moral and ethical Issues—Paul condemned sexual immorality, lawsuits among believers, and improper conduct (1 Corinthians 5–6); worship and spiritual gifts—he provided instruction on the Lord's Supper, the role of women in worship, and spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 11–14); Resurrection of Christ—Paul strongly affirmed the resurrection as central to the Christian faith (1 Corinthians 15); defense of apostolic authority—in *2 Corinthians*, Paul defended his apostleship against critics who questioned his legitimacy and motives (2 Corinthians 10–12); encouragement and reconciliation—Paul emphasized forgiveness, generosity, and perseverance in faith amid suffering (2 Corinthians 1–9).

Paul's letters to the church in Corinth remain essential for understanding church leadership, Christian ethics, and the power of reconciliation in the face of conflict.