

Sunday, March 9th 2025

The First Sunday in Lent



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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:

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Mark McClain
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Dave Layland
Usher – Dave Sager
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Jesus Christ Is Our Champion Against the Devil

Jesus Christ, our champion against the devil, endures and overcomes “*every temptation*” (Luke 4:13) on our behalf. He worships the Lord, His God, and serves Him only by trusting the Word of His Father: “*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*” (Luke 3:22). Jesus’ victory is now ours through His gracious Word, which is not far away but near us — in our mouth and in our heart, in the proclamation of repentance and faith. For “*with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved*” (Rom. 10:10). Our confession of Christ includes the prayer of faith, which is not disappointed, “*for ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’*” (Rom. 10:13). The Lord is not oblivious to “*our affliction, our toil, and our oppression*” (Deut. 26:7), but has mercy upon us. He has brought us out of bondage through the “*signs and wonders*” of Holy Baptism, “*with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm*” (Deut. 26:8), and now He leads us by His Spirit even in the wilderness.

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 656

(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.

Psalms 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 91:9-13

- P** Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** **no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**
- P** For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- C** **On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.
- 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.

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.
O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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)

¹“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the Lord your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 4:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’**” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “**It is written,**

**“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.”**

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “**It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’**” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”

LSB 424

(stand)

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

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy

C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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 Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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:

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



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

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

LSB 718

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LSB 418

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: Romans 10:8b-13

The Simplest Three-word Creed

1. Ours is not a _____ without _____ because Jesus _____ in it.
 2. Our confessions of _____ and our _____ are meant to keep us centered as _____.
 3. Membership in the true _____, God's chosen people, is not a matter of genetic descent from _____ but a matter of being _____ to belong to that people.
 4. If you confess with your _____ that Jesus is Lord and believe in your _____ that God raised him from the dead, you will be _____.
 5. Our insistent _____ to put at least some of the _____ of our repaired relationship with God on something other than total _____ in Him is an appropriate self-examination for Lent.
 6. The earliest and shortest creed of the early church is the simplest three-word creed in all of Christendom: “ _____ _____.”
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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. Ronald and Mary Anne Rall – missionaries in Papua New Guinea
- Family and friends of Robert Treviño (Yvonne Loynes' father)

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.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Lent Midweek Fellowship Gatherings: Join us as we gather together at 6:30pm on 3/12 (Laylands), 3/19 (Linda and Ruby), 3/26 (Rossers), and 4/2 & 4/9 (Monroes) for a light meal and video study! For more info, contact Pastor E.B.

Thursday 6pm Zoom Study: Join us for *Hebrews – Timeless Truths*, a 13-week look at the entire (13 chapters) of the New Testament book of Hebrews (began on February 13th). 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

Make Every Day Count devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop meets twice a month at 3pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

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

- Day 69 - Mon 3/10: Deuteronomy 32-34, Psalm 69
- Day 70 - Tue 3/11: Joshua 1-4, Psalm 70
- Day 71 - Wed 3/12: Joshua 5-8, Psalm 71
- Day 72 - Thu 3/13: Joshua 9-11, Psalm 72
- Day 73 - Fri 3/14: Joshua 12-15, Psalm 73
- Day 74 - Sat 3/15: Joshua 16-18, Psalm 74
- Day 75 - Sun 3/16: Joshua 19-21, Psalm 75



Lutheran Radio: 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 7am 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](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, March 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

Wednesday, March 12th

- 6:00pm – Lent Midweek Fellowship Gathering – At the Laylands

Thursday, March 13th

- 6:00pm – Zoom Study: *Hebrews-Timeless Truths*

Sunday, March 16th

- 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. Ours is not a *world* without *hope* because Jesus *died* in it.
2. Our confessions of *faith* and our *creeds* are meant to keep us centered as *believers*.
3. Membership in the true *Israel*, God’s chosen people, is not a matter of genetic descent from *Abraham* but a matter of being *chosen* to belong to that people.
4. If you confess with your *mouth* that Jesus is Lord and believe in your *heart* that God raised him from the dead, you will be *saved*.
5. Our insistent *desire* to put at least some of the *burden* of our repaired relationship with God on something other than total *trust* in Him is an appropriate self-examination for Lent.
6. The simplest three-word creed in all of Christendom is “*Jesus is Lord*.”



A Little Book of Less Than 8,000 Words – Part 3

[Pastor's note: This is the third in a series of "lessons" on **Luther's Small Catechism** using excerpts from Robert Kolb's 2012 study guide, *Teaching God's Children His Teaching*.]

Human living began in that creative process which took place as God spoke all reality into being (Genesis 1). Truly human living is possible only when it rests upon the word of the Lord.

God's word comes to us today in authoritative form in the Holy Scriptures. Luther believed that the gospel must be "living," that is, spoken, in its application to the lives of others, but he anchored the spoken word of believers in the inspired word of God, the Scriptures.

But he also recognized that the Scriptures cannot be mastered or digested as a whole all at once. He sensed that the Scriptures can be like that elephant that twelve blindfolded people try to describe. Each of us finds it easy to isolate one portion or another of the Scriptures and to make that favorite gem (which corresponds to our own wisdom) into a tail which wags the whole dog.

Just as parents would not give an infant a whole gallon of milk and say "drink to your heart's content," so neither can they expect their children to ingest the whole Bible from cover to cover in one big gulp. They pour the contents of the gallon of milk into a glass, and they take the heart of the pure milk of the word and pour it into the vessel of the Catechism. That is how children—and older, new Christians as well—need to receive the word. And often that is how their parents and elders need to receive it, too.

For the Catechism is intended to be nothing more than a vessel for conveying the fundamental concepts and teaching of the Bible. Actually, nearly one-fourth of Luther's Small Catechism is quotation from the Bible, and another third of it is direct interpretation of Scripture passages. The remainder is devoted to the application of the biblical message to our lives.

To understand the whole of Scripture for Luther meant to be able to use it in daily life, in living as God's child oneself and in confessing the faith to others. Even if a person knows the Catechism perfectly—an impossibility Luther admitted—it would still be very profitable and fruitful to meditate upon it and talk about it each day, he wrote. For the Holy Spirit uses such meditation and conversation to give us both greater understanding and greater zeal for Christian living. Fundamentally that means living a life which distinguishes law and gospel and practicing a life which is listening to both.

