

Sunday, March 23rd 2025

The Third Sunday in Lent



Mailing Address:

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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 – Leann McClain
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Dave Layland
Usher – Alex Monroe
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Jesus Calls You to Repentance

“*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we would not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has “*no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live*” (Ezek. 33:11). So the Scriptures have been “*written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come*” (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ. He alone is faithful, the Rock who feeds us with His “*spiritual food*” and pours out His “*spiritual drink*” (1 Cor. 10:3–4).

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”

LSB 824

(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]

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-20

7“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. 9But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

10“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ 11Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

12“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. 13Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. 14Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, 15if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 16None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

17“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. 18When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. 19And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. 20Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day “*Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*” LSB 756

Sermon 13. *T or F: God never gives us more than we can handle.* 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

(stand)

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.**

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 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, 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

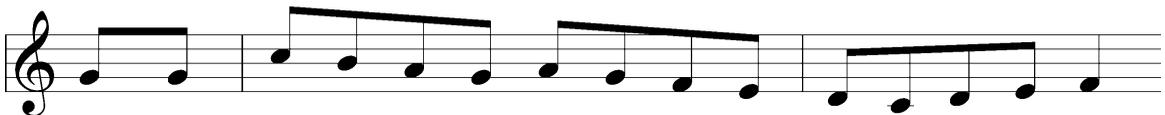
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**☩ 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



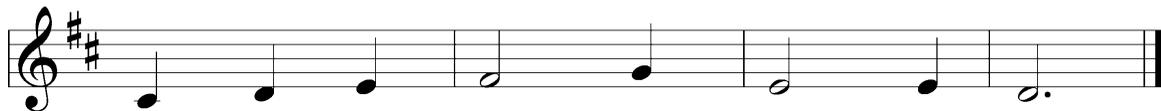
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733

(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

“I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

LSB 719

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 10:1-13

13. *T or F: God never gives us more than we can handle.*

1. The number _____ is meant as a marker representing a coming _____ in God's _____ for His people.
 2. God's _____ in both _____ are of the _____ divine plan.
 3. Paul means to remind the Corinthians that the _____ Testament record exists to _____ them as they face _____.
 4. God is _____, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your _____, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of _____. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 5. God does _____—not _____—us more than we can _____ by ourselves so we will depend on Him.
 6. If _____ are _____, God will enable us to _____.
-

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. David and Jennifer Preus and their 9 children, Hans, Rebekah, Rolf, Lena, Soren, Leif, Andreas, Lars, and Sylvi – missionaries in Romania
- Alex Jimenez – Rosie's cousin

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 3/26 (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 83 - Mon 3/24: Judges 16-18, Psalm 83
- Day 84 - Tue 3/25: Judges 19-21, Psalm 84
- Day 85 - Wed 3/26: Ruth 1-4, Psalm 85
- Day 86 - Thu 3/27: 1 Samuel 1-3, Psalm 86
- Day 87 - Fri 3/28: 1 Samuel 4-8, Psalm 87
- Day 88 - Sat 3/29: 1 Samuel 9-12, Psalm 88
- Day 89 - Sun 3/30: 1 Samuel 13-14, Psalm 89



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), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

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 23rd

- 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 26th

- 6:30pm – Lent Midweek Fellowship Gathering – At the Rossers’

Thursday, March 27th

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

Sunday, March 30th

- 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. The number *13* is meant as a marker representing a coming *change* in God’s *plan* for His people.

2. God’s *actions* in both *Testaments* are of the *same* divine plan.

3. Paul means to remind the Corinthians that the *Old Testament* record exists to *help* them as they face *temptation*.

4. God is *faithful*, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your *ability*, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of *escape*. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

5. God does *allow*—not *give*—us more than we can *handle* by ourselves so we will depend on Him.

6. If *we* are *faithful*, God will enable us to *endure*.



A Little Book of Less Than 8,000 Words – Part 5

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

From Norway to Nigeria, from Hamburg and Helsinki to Houston and Hong Kong, in languages from Amharic to Zulu, for more than 450 years, countless young people have struggled to memorize Martin Luther's Small Catechism (a little book of less than 8,000 words) as they grow up, and countless old people have struggled to pray its words as they lie dying.

Although it took a long while for Luther to realize the significance of this act of God, his baptism became for him the heart of his daily life. For God's promise to him in his baptism—God's acceptance of him as His child and His commitment to him as His Father forever and without fail—sustained and supported Luther in good days and bad. To convey that kind of life to others Luther composed his Catechism.

The Catechism, however you define it, echoes God's speaking to His people throughout Scripture. There He has introduced Himself as a God of conversation and community, and He has introduced us as the people who, created in His image, talk about Him and all that He has made in the communities in which He places us, in homes and occupations, in society and the congregation of His people.

In his own succinct way, with the gifts God had given him—gifts of insight in the Bible and of skill with the German language (to say nothing of the Greek and Hebrew)—Luther captured the rhythm of God's speech, as He tells us who He is and what He has done for us and as He tells us what He expects from us. Luther reproduced the biblical insight that our lives are lived in two dimensions, with two modes of being, one as children who passively receive the gift of life from Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, delivered by the Holy Spirit through the gift of the trust that permeates our lives and determines our

personhood, and one as children who meet the Father's expectations that He has laid out in His plan for the good human life.

Rightly understood, Luther's Catechism can serve people throughout the world in the 21st century as a refreshing call to the fullness of our humanity, to the presence of God, to the joy and peace of living abundantly in His presence.

