

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

Second Sunday of Easter



**Mailing Address:**

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

**Physical Address:**

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(on the SDA campus)  
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**Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor  
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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.

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## 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.

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## SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh  
Musician – Leann McClain  
Lay Reader – Deb Layland  
Assisting Elder – Dave Sager  
Usher – Rosie Cabrera  
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

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## AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

### *That You May Believe and Have Live in His Name*

On the Lord’s Day, St. John the apostle was given a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Living One, “*the firstborn of the dead*” (Rev. 1:5). He died for all people, and behold, He is alive forevermore! Therefore, He has “*the keys of Death and Hades*” (Rev. 1:18). For His death atoned for sin and conquered death, and in His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to us. The “*sharp two-edged sword*” of His mouth (Rev. 1:16) calls you to “*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,*” that by such faith “*you may have life in his name*” (John 20:31). To that end, He sends His ministers of the Word, as the Father sent Him, “*to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31).

**DIVINE SERVICE**  
**SETTING FOUR**

**Prelude**

Selected Music

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn**

*“O Sons and Daughters of the King”*

LSB 470 sts. 1-4

*(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.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Psalm 105:1-5, 8

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**C** Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!

**P** Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**C** Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

**P** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

**C** He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

*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, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(sit)*

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

## Alleluia and Verse



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



☐ These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

*John 20:31*



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

## Holy Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

☐ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my



finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*(sit)*

**Hymn of the Day**     *“O Sons and Daughters of the King”*     LSB 470 sts. 5-9

**Sermon**                     *“Even so I am sending you.”*                     John 20:19-31

*(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**

*(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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary

Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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.  
**☩ Amen.**

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29



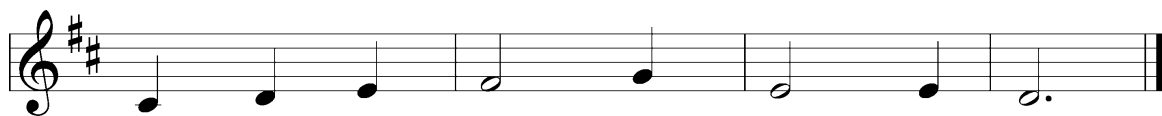
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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**

*“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”*

LSB 487

*(stand)*

# Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

**C** 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**

*“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”*

LSB 564

**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: John 20:19-31

*“Even so I am sending you.”*

1. Following the risen Christ means walking into a \_\_\_\_\_ world with \_\_\_\_\_ hands and \_\_\_\_\_ hearts.
  2. Jesus doesn't promise \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_—he promises his \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of it.
  3. Christians should place no faith in \_\_\_\_\_—that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ person roaming the earth.
  4. The Resurrection is followed by Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit upon those who are to continue his \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. The task of bearing \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus would be impossible for the \_\_\_\_\_ without the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.
  6. God's \_\_\_\_\_ was for Jesus to leave the \_\_\_\_\_ behind after his ascension, but not to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
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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](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Dr. Tom Park – missionary in Taiwan
- Rosie Cabrera



## 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.

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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](http://peacebewithyou.podbean.com) (or just scan the QR code).



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

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**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.



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**Pastor-gram:** Pastor E.B. sends out a weekly Pastor-gram email with info and reminders (and some other stuff...). If you aren't getting them and would like to, email [pastor@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanybastrop.org) (please include your name).

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**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 13<sup>th</sup>). 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](http://bit.ly/ELC-Hebrews)

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***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.

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**New Sunday School video series begins next week!** Join us at 10am for another 18-week journey with Drive Thru History's Dave Stotts as we explore the lives of the very first Christians in ***Acts to Revelation***. This study picks up where our current study, *The Gospels*, ended today.

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**New Tuesday 6:30pm Bible Study Opportunity at SDA:** Join Pastor E.B. for ***How We Got The Bible***, a 5-session video study featuring the late Dr. Paul L. Maier, in the SDA sanctuary beginning April 29. As God's written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are the source of His revelation to man. We'll look at the production, collection, transmission, and preservation of these marvelous works. PLEASE register if you plan to attend: [bit.ly/ELC-HowBible](http://bit.ly/ELC-HowBible)

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**Giants. Talking Snakes. Nephilim. Lake of Fire. Plagues.** On the surface, it appears that the Old Testament is filled with some weird stuff, but what if you were told that the point isn't the "weird"? Join us in June for a new Thursday 6pm Zoom video study! ***Weird Stuff: Old Testament***, a six-session series hosted by Dr. Jeff Voth and Hebrew scholar, Dr. Nathan French. Begins 6/12. Register: [bit.ly/ELC-WeirdOT1](http://bit.ly/ELC-WeirdOT1)

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**Looking for a unique volunteer/fellowship opportunity? Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry Production Center 163** is located at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. They currently have 8 teams of 7-8 members that meet at various days and times, once a month for 1-2 hours (there are teams that meet in the mornings usually at 9-11am or 9:30-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays, and two evening groups that meet at 5-7pm or 6-8pm). They're always in need of workers and no Braille skills are needed. If you're interested in volunteering, call Shirley Alexander at (979) 540-6800 or speak with Rosie Cabrera...

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

- Day 118 - Mon 4/28: 2 Kings 20-22, Psalm 118
- Day 119 - Tue 4/29: 2 Kings 23-25, Psalm 119
- Day 120 - Wed 4/30: 1 Chronicles 1-2, Psalm 120
- Day 121 - Thu 5/1: 1 Chronicles 3-5, Psalm 121
- Day 122 - Fri 5/2: 1 Chronicles 6, Psalm 122



- Day 123 - Sat 5/3: 1 Chronicles 7-8, Psalm 123
  - Day 124 - Sun 5/4: 1 Chronicles 9-11, Psalm 124
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**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](http://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 KLBK (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 [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).

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## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

### Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

- 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, April 29<sup>th</sup>

- 6:30pm – *Bible Study: How We Got the Bible* – at SDA campus

### Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

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

### Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

- 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

# What then should we learn from this account of Thomas?

by Martin Luther



Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you believe. Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe." Here with a few words Christ illustrates the nature of faith, which "is a certain confidence in what is hoped for, and does not doubt what is not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Therefore our salvation is expressed in the words "Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe."

Faith is not a simple thing that consists merely of words or floats on the tongue like foam on water, but is the gift of God and work of God. However reasonable, wise, and learned a man may be, he will never be able to dispose himself toward faith unless he is drawn and instructed by the particular grace of the Holy Spirit, as Christ shows: "They will all be taught by God" (John 6:45), after Isaiah 54:13.

Faith has its origin in fear and terror, in remorse and sorrow. For "the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). And, "I look upon the miserable, and him who is broken in spirit, and who fears My Word" (Isaiah 66:2). If faith is to bring comfort and joy, gladden the heart, and set the conscience at ease, as is its nature, it must first find remorse and sorrow, a contrite heart, and an anxious conscience, or else a man is not capable of faith and Gods comfort. For Christ says, "To the poor the Gospel is preached" (Matthew 11:5). Such is the way God acts when He wishes to convert a man, correct him, give him faith, that He first casts him into the deepest unbelief, fear, anguish, and terror, indeed, into hell. As Hannah sings, "The Lord kills and gives life, brings into hell and out again" (1 Samuel 2:6).

Faith must be tested and proved through cross and tribulation, if it is to endure at all and become evident, like gold in fire. For St. Paul says that the Gospel is "a word of the cross" (Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 1:18); and, "Through many afflictions we must pass into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). And Luke, "Was it not necessary that Christ suffer and so enter to His glory" (Luke 24:26). To that glory may God bring us! Amen.

Answers to Sermon Notes:  
1. Following the risen Christ means walking into a *suffering* world with *scarred* hands and *peaceful* hearts.  
2. Jesus doesn't promise *protection* from *suffering*—he promises his *peace* in the midst of it.  
3. Christians should place no faith in *ghosts*—that is, a *spirit* of a *dead* person roaming the earth.  
4. The Resurrection is followed by Jesus' *breathing* the Holy Spirit upon those who are to continue his *work* in the *world*.  
5. The task of bearing *witness* to Jesus would be impossible for the *church* without the *power* of the Holy Spirit.  
6. God's *plan* was for Jesus to leave the *disciples* behind after his ascension, but not to *abandon* them.