

Sunday, May 4th 2025

Third Sunday of Easter



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
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:

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 – Susan Michael
Lay Reader – Dave Layland
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Jeremy Clifton
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He “was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead” (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name “before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“This Joyful Eastertide”

LSB 482

(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 145:4-7, 9

P One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

C **On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

P They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.

C **They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

P **The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

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.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.
 Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death,
 perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives
 and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 5:1-14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



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



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



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

John 20:31



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

Holy Gospel Reading

John 21:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he

put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “**Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.**” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “**Come and have breakfast.**” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *“With High Delight Let Us Unite”*

LSB 483

Sermon

A Son-rise Breakfast

John 21:1-14

(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.
C And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

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

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

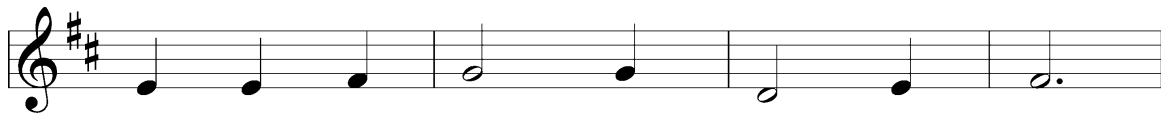
John 1:29



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 Hymns

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”
“Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”

LSB 594
LSB 774

(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

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

LSB 603

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 21:1-14

A Son-rise Breakfast

1. _____ went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, _____ of them. And although there were so many, the net was not _____.
2. _____ didn't catch even one _____ on his own, because that's not what Jesus—_____—wanted him to do.
3. _____ wanted him to _____, to follow his—Jesus' not Peter's—_____.
4. _____—God, the great I AM—has handpicked _____ to lead His _____.
5. That the _____ was not torn, in spite of the huge _____, is often taken to mean the _____ of the church.
6. _____, like Moses, Jonah, and Peter, have been handpicked by the _____ of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be part of His plan to _____ those held captive to sin.

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...

- Shara Osiro – missionary in Eastern and Southern Africa, based in Kenya
- Deb Layland
- Ray Lehrmann

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. *Peter* went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, *153* of them. And although there were so many, the net was not *torn*.
2. *Peter* didn't catch even one *fish* on his own, because that's not what Jesus—*God*—wanted him to do.
3. *Jesus* wanted him to *wait* to follow his—Jesus' not Peter's—*instructions*.
4. *Jesus*—God, the great I AM—has handpicked *Peter* to lead His *Church*.
5. That the *net* was not torn, in spite of the huge *load* is often taken to mean the *unity* of the church.
6. *You* like Moses, Jonah, and Peter, have been handpicked by the *God* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be part of His plan to *rescue* those held captive to sin.

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.



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 (please include your name).

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

New Sunday School video series began this 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 last study, *The Gospels*, ended.

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

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

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...

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

- Day 125 - Mon 5/5: 1 Chronicles 12-14, Psalm 125
- Day 126 - Tue 5/6: 1 Chronicles 15-17, Psalm 126
- Day 127 - Wed 5/7: 1 Chronicles 18-21, Psalm 127
- Day 128 - Thu 5/8: 1 Chronicles 22-24, Psalm 128
- Day 129 - Fri 5/9: 1 Chronicles 25-27, Psalm 129
- Day 130 - Sat 5/10: 1 Chronicles 28 - 2 Chronicles 1, Psalm 130
- Day 131 - Sun 5/11: 2 Chronicles 2-5, Psalm 131



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.

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 kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfu.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfu.org), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfu.org).

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, May 4th

- 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, May 6th

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court
- 6:30pm – Bible Study: *How We Got the Bible* – at SDA campus

Thursday, May 8th

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

Sunday, May 11th - Mother’s Day

- 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
- Immediately Following Service – Voters’ Meeting

3-minute



Seminary

“Do you love me more than these?”

At first glance, John 21:15–19 feels like an unexpected addition. John’s Gospel already seemed to end neatly in chapter 20, with its triumphant proclamation that these things were written so that we might believe.

Yet here is one more scene, quietly set by a charcoal fire beside the Sea of Galilee. It is a scene of grace and a deeper commissioning—especially for Peter.

The last time Peter was near a charcoal fire, he had denied even knowing Jesus—not once, but three times. Now, in this tender moment, Jesus gives Peter three opportunities to declare his love. Each time Peter responds, and each time Jesus charges him to care for His flock: “Feed my lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” “Feed my sheep.” Peter’s denial is not only forgiven; it is rewritten into a calling.

There is a subtle richness in the way Jesus speaks. In the Greek, the first two times Jesus asks, “Do you love me?” He uses the word *agape*—the highest form of unconditional, sacrificial love. Peter, perhaps still burdened by his shame, responds with *phileo*—the word for brotherly affection and friendship. Finally, Jesus meets Peter where he is and uses *phileo* Himself. Rather than demanding an unreachable ideal, Jesus receives Peter’s wounded but genuine heart and builds on it.

Yet Jesus’ restoration of Peter is not lighthearted. He speaks plainly about the cost of this love. Peter will follow Jesus all the way to martyrdom. Pointing to a future of suffering that Peter once feared but will now embrace in faithful witness, Jesus says to him, “Truly, truly*, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”

The mood of this passage is emotionally complex—there’s a tenderness (Jesus cooks breakfast!), but also a heaviness (foretelling death). Peter is hurt when Jesus keeps asking “Do you love me?”—but this repetition is necessary for healing and mission. Loving Jesus doesn’t just mean having warm feelings; it means serving and suffering for His flock. That’s a deep—and demanding—definition of discipleship.

*Meaning of “Truly, truly”: The Greek word behind “Truly” is *amen*—yes, the same word as “Amen,” meaning “certainly” or “it is so.” When Jesus says “Truly” (*amen*), it signals solemn truthfulness: “Pay special attention—this is firm, authoritative truth.” When Jesus says “Truly, truly” (*amen amen*), it’s even stronger: “This is absolute, unquestionable truth—you can stake your life on it.”