

**Sunday, November 2nd 2025 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Day (Observed)**



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
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Bastrop, TX 78602**

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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!”
(Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation by baptized believers in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Musician – Susan Michael
Lay Reader – Dave Layland
Assisting Elder – Dave Sager
Usher – Clayton Wolf
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Lord Comes to Save and Call Us to Himself by the Tree of His Cross

God will judge “those who do not obey the gospel” (2 Thess. 1:8), but “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven” (2 Thess. 1:7), He will “be glorified in his saints” (2 Thess. 1:10). For by His cross, you are “considered worthy of the kingdom of God” (2 Thess. 1:5). Therefore, “give ear to the teaching of our God” (Is. 1:10), and “let us reason together” by faith in His Gospel (Is. 1:18). “Make yourselves clean” (Is. 1:16), not by “the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats” (Is. 1:11), but by the blood of Christ. His salvation comes to you by grace, as it came to Zacchaeus. That man sought “to see who Jesus was,” but he could not “because he was small in stature” (Luke 19:3). It is by way of a tree that Zacchaeus is found by the One he sought, for Jesus Himself “was about to pass that way” (Luke 19:4). The Lord calls Zacchaeus down and goes “in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner” (Luke 19:7). So also, He visits us as sinners, securing eternal redemption for us through the tree of His holy cross.

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

LSB 671d

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✝ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

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

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 50:1-2, 14-15

P The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**C Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.**

P Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,

**C and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.**

*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 - shipped 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 Lord, stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to welcome and joyfully receive Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that He may find in us a fit dwelling place; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 1:10-18

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!

Give ear to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

¹²“When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?

¹³Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
¹⁷learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause.
¹⁸"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ...

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Luke 19:1-10

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “**Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.**” ⁶So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.**” ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“For All the Saints”

LSB 677 sts. 1-4

Sermon

*The Gospel of the Sycamore Tree:
Connect. Grow. Multiply.*

Luke 19:1-10

(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)

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

P In joyful expectation of the resurrection, we remember before the Lord our beloved fellow church members who have gone to their heavenly home during the past year:

Richard Giro – December 3, 2024

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving those who loved and served You in Your Church on earth and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

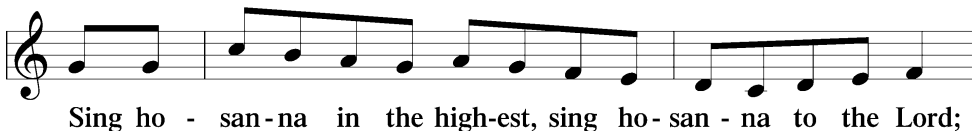
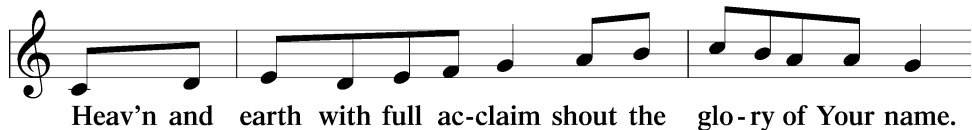
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

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

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

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

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

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✝** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant 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

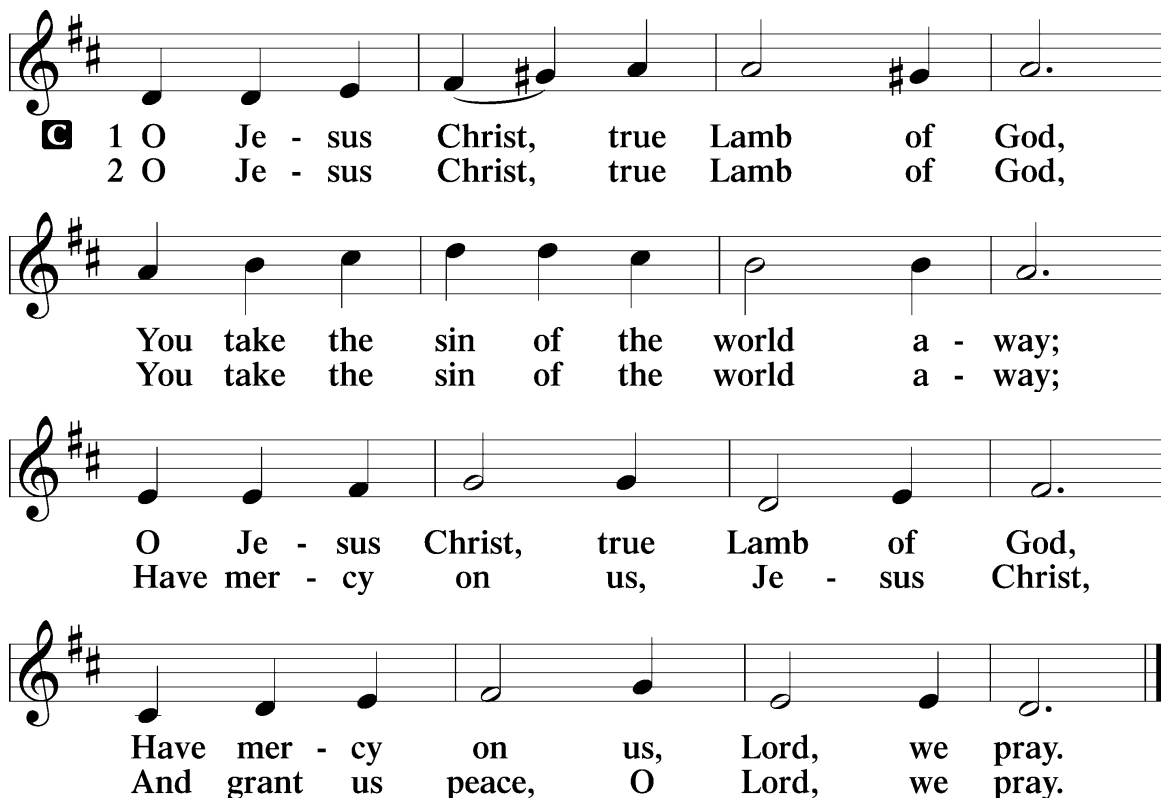
John 20:19

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”
“Behold a Host, Arrayed in White”

LSB 594
LSB 676

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the 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

“For All the Saints”

LSB 677 sts. 5-8

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.



CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.

What is that Word and command of God concerning Baptism? Jesus says: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-20.

SERMON NOTES: Luke 19:1-10

The Gospel of the Sycamore Tree: Connect. Grow. Multiply.

1. "For everyone who exalts himself will be _____, but the _____ who _____ himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)
2. The _____ of Luther's 95 Theses stated, "The _____ of the Christian is one of _____."
3. The unpolluted, childlike _____ alluded to in the second part of our reading speaks to *Sola Fide* (Faith Alone), God's gift of _____ through which Christ's death _____ us.
4. It's been said that the more a person _____ as a Christian, the more _____ will reveal the utter sinfulness of that person's own _____.
5. _____ makes givers, _____ frees us from fear and greed, and _____ compels us to share what we have received.
6. For where _____ is received with childlike faith, _____ and _____ always follow.



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).



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 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.



New 10am Adult Sunday School Series: The Word of God still breathes, teaches, and transforms! Join us next Sunday for *God Speaks*, a 4-week video study and an invitation to encounter Scripture as living and active, reshaping the rest of our lives.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM NEXT SUNDAY: Please join us for the inaugural worship service (no Sunday school) on our new property at 124 Three Oaks Ln. in Bastrop! (An official dedication worship service event is being planned for Epiphany Sunday, January 11.)

Voter's Meetings: We have two upcoming Voter's Meetings. For the first one, the Church Council is calling a Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, November 16th** after the service. The three items on the agenda will be 1) amending our Constitution and Bylaws to add the position of Vice President; 2) amending our Constitution and Bylaws to enhance and clarify the portion governing ad-hoc committees; and 3) next steps for construction at our 124 Three Oaks property. Our second and final regular Voter's Meeting of the year will be held on **Sunday, December 14th** after the service. At this time, the two agenda items for this meeting are 1) electing officers and 2) approving our 2026 budget.

Please make plans to attend these two very important meetings!

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 lh.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 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, November 2nd

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

Tuesday, November 4th

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court
- 6:20pm – Elders’ Meeting

Sunday, November 9th

- 10:00am – Worship Service
- 11:00am – Fellowship Time

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. "For everyone who exalts himself will be **humbled**, but the **one who humbles** himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)
2. The **first** of Luther's 95 Theses stated, "The **life** of the Christian is one of **repentance**."
3. The unpolluted, childlike **faith** alluded to in the second part of our reading speaks to Sola Fide (Faith Alone), God's gift of **grace** through which Christ's death **saves** us.
4. It's been said that the more a person **grows** as a Christian, the more **God** will reveal the utter sinfulness of that person's own **heart**.
5. **Grace** makes givers, **faith** frees us from fear and greed, and **love** compels us to share what we have received.
6. For where **grace** is received with childlike faith, **generosity** and **mission** always follow.

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

- Day 307 - Mon 11/3: Luke 23-24
- Day 308 - Tue 11/4: John 1-2
- Day 309 - Wed 11/5: John 3-4
- Day 310 - Thu 11/6: John 5-6
- Day 311 - Fri 11/7: John 7-8
- Day 312 - Sat 11/8: John 9-10
- Day 313 - Sun 11/9: John 11-12



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. Nathaniel and Emma Jensen and their daughters, Agatha and Cecilia – Missionaries in Germany
 - Carl Sneck – Sandy Sneck's Husband
 - Family of Willard Schafer – Jeremy Clifton's Manager
-



'Steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions...'

In our Epistle reading this morning, Paul opens his second letter to the believers in Thessalonica with a blessing we can't live without:

"Grace to you and peace." Not sentimental niceties, but fuel and finish—grace that starts the engine of faith and peace that steadies the wheel when the road gets rough. He writes to a church under pressure, and yet he says, "Your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." Notice what's missing: comfort, ease, perfect circumstances. The Thessalonians don't wait for calmer weather; they grow in the storm.

That's the paradox of the Christian life. Tribulation does not shrink faith; it can stretch it. Suffering doesn't cancel love; it can concentrate it. When Paul says he

boasts of their “steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring,” he isn’t praising grit alone. He’s praising the grace of God visible in a people who refuse to let fear write the ending. Their endurance is evidence—not that they’re extraordinary—but that God is faithfully at work among ordinary saints.

Then Paul steers us to prayer. He prays two things every congregation needs every day: first, that God would make us “worthy of his calling,” and second, that He would “fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power.” Worthiness here isn’t earning salvation; it’s living aligned with it. Think of a tuning fork held to a guitar string—the string vibrates to the given pitch. God’s call in Christ is the pitch; our lives are tuned to it by grace. And “every resolve for good” reminds us that holy intentions aren’t enough; we need the Spirit’s power to carry them into holy action—goodness that travels from calendar to checkbook, from lips to hands.

Why? “So that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him.” That’s the endgame: not that people would say, “What a strong church,” but “What a strong Savior.” When Jesus is glorified in us, we also share in His glory—He lifts our faces as we lift His name.

For a congregation, this text sketches a faithful rhythm: *Connect* to grace: receive again today the gift that found you—grace that forgives, renews, and steadies the anxious heart. *Grow* in faith and love: not by escaping hardship but by abiding in Christ through it—Scripture open, prayers honest, fellowship real. *Multiply* good works: let God’s power animate the resolve He plants—even small acts of obedience ripple outward with eternal weight.

Perhaps you’re carrying a quiet pressure today—a diagnosis, a debt, a strained relationship, a weary ministry. Hear this: your endurance in Christ is not invisible. God sees. Your church needs your steadfastness. And the Lord who calls you is also the One who completes what He begins. He will supply power for every good work He assigns.