EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH BASTROP

Connect. Grow. Multiply.

Mailing Address:
Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602

Physical Address:
Epiphany Lutheran Church
(on the SDA campus)
3300 TX-21
Bastrop, TX 78602

Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor
(512) 798-3682 (Voicemail/Text)
pastor@epiphanybastrop.org

Church Phone – (512) 907-0717
church@epiphanybastrop.org
epiphanybastrop.org/
facebook.com/epiphanybastrop

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 – Leann McClain
Lay Reader – Alison Parker
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Clayton Wolf
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His Popel from Their Sins

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must *"take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt"* (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He *"had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'"* (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing *"his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses"* (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. *"He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them"* (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we *"receive adoption as sons"* in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: *"Abba! Father!"* (Gal. 4:4–6).

DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR

Prelude Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn *"From East to West"* LSB 385

(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 Jeremiah 31:15-17

P Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

**C Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."**

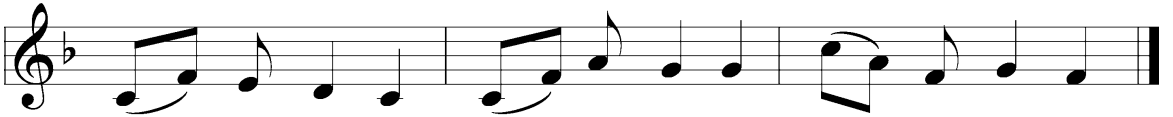
P Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,

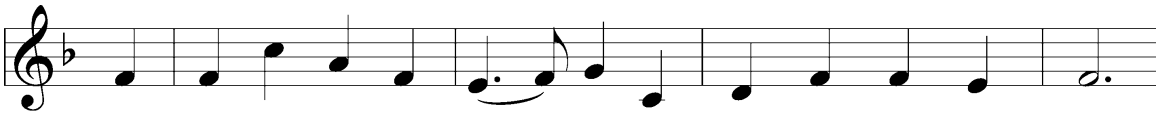
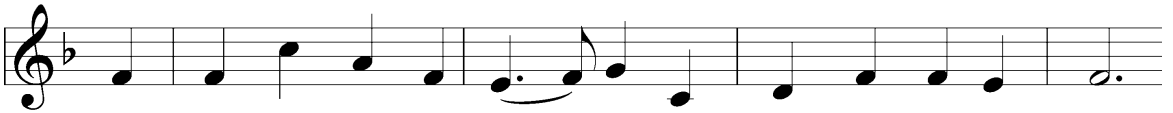
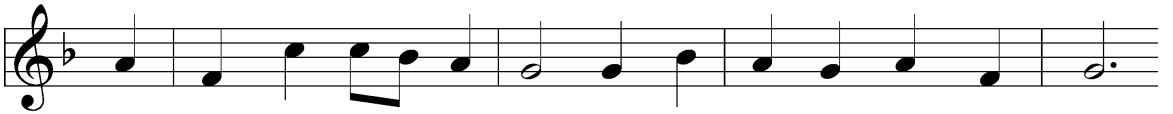
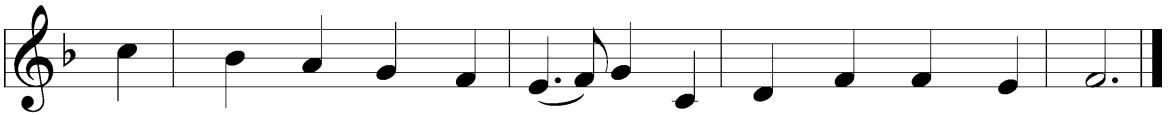
**C for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.**

P There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country."

**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, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

(sit)

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 63:7-14

7 I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.
9 In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
10 But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
11 Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them

his Holy Spirit,
12who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
13who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
14Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

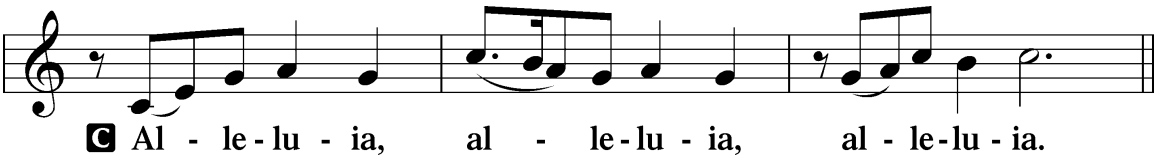
Epistle Reading Galatians 4:4-7

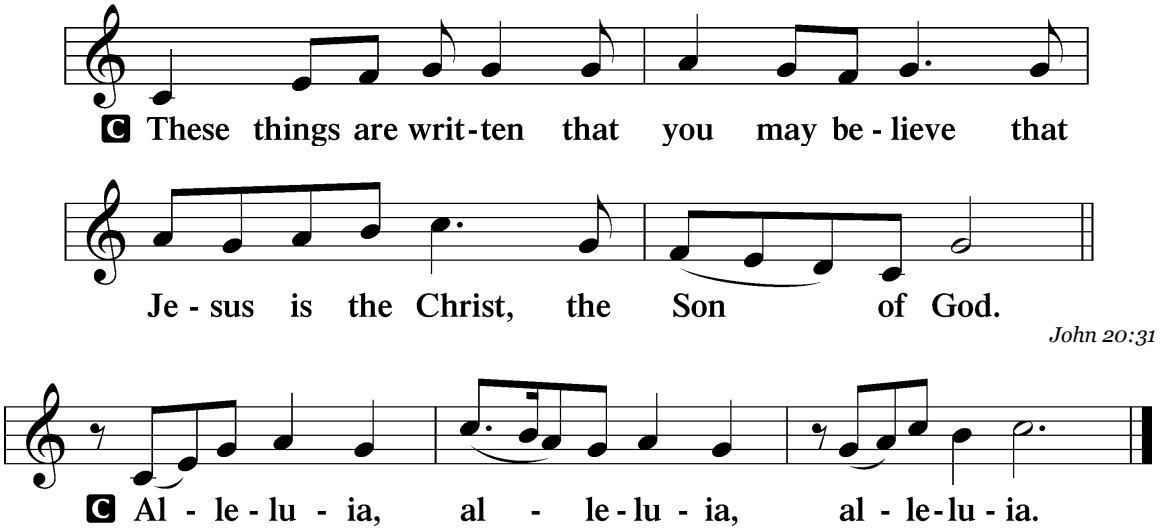
4When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse





Holy Gospel Reading Matthew 2:13-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

13When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and
flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for
the child, to destroy him." 14And he rose and took the child and his mother by
night and departed to Egypt 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This
was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my
son."

16Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,
became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in
all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had
ascertained from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the
prophet Jeremiah:
18"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

19But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream
to Joseph in Egypt, 20saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the

land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *"God Loves Me Dearly"* LSB 392

Sermon *The Story of Joseph in Two Acts* *Matthew 2:13-23*

(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)

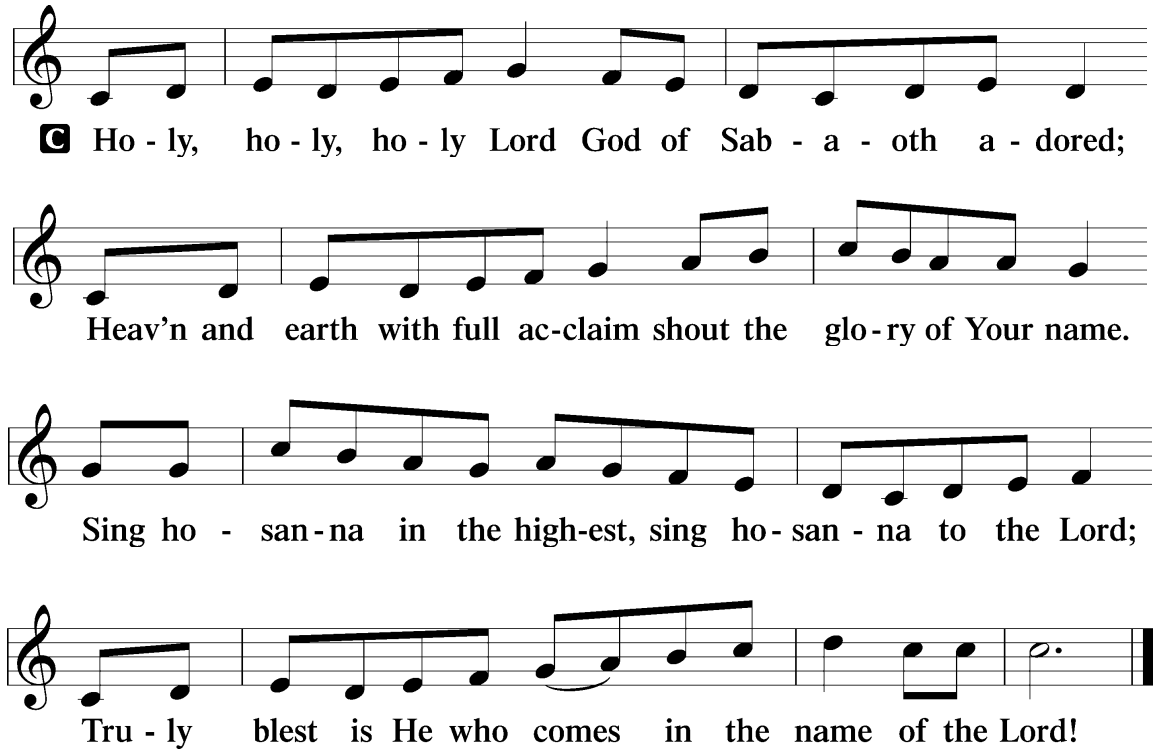
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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."

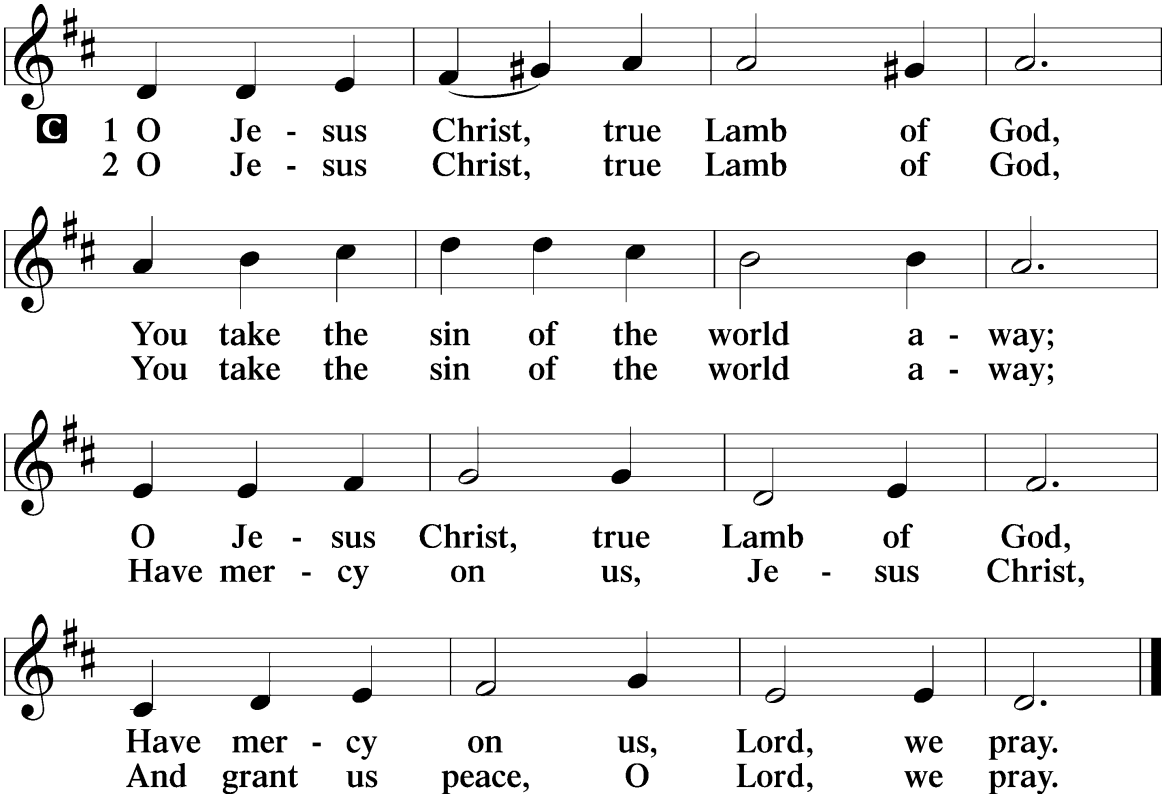
Pax Domini

John 20:19

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
℃ Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



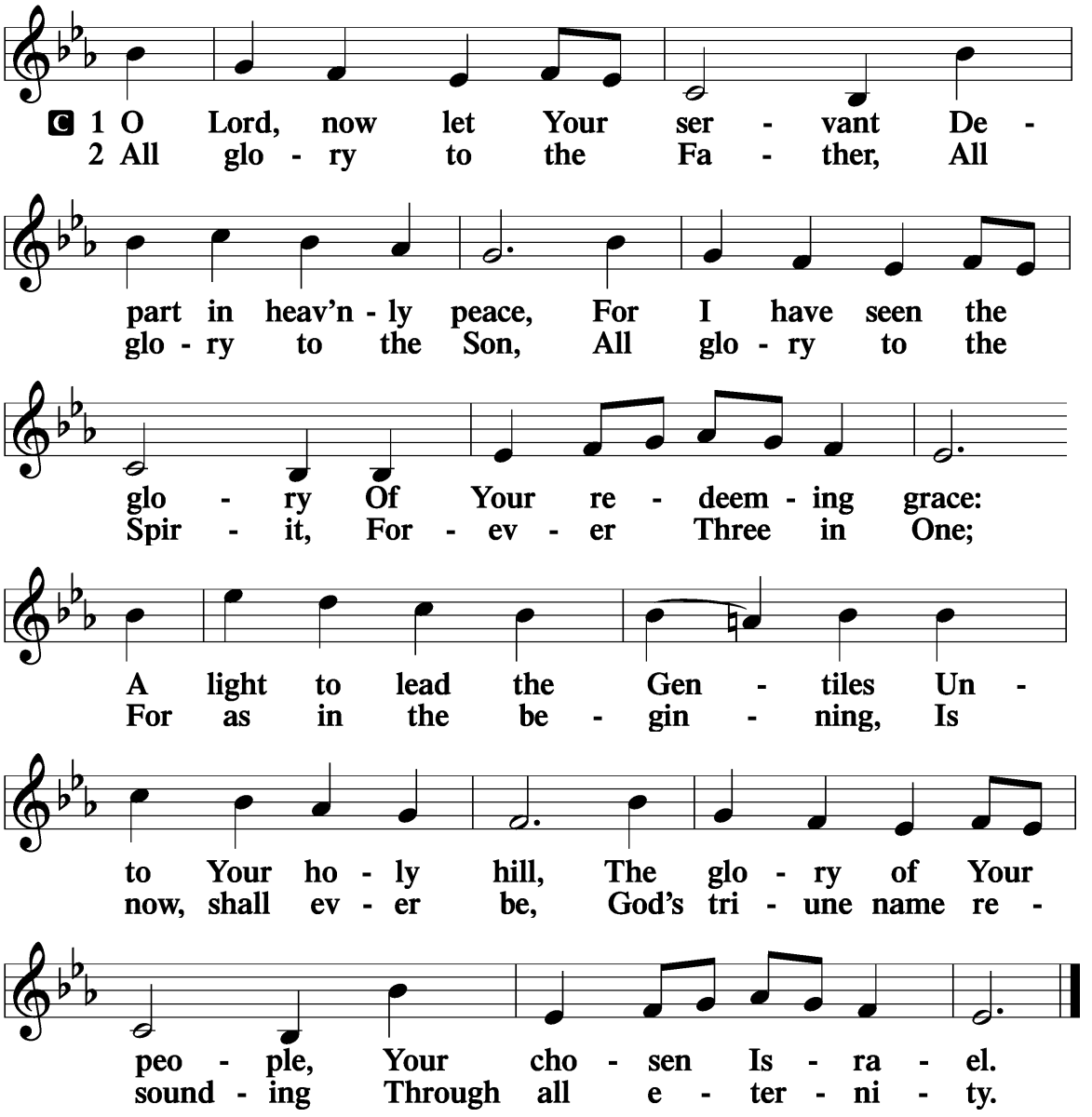
(sit)

Distribution Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380
"Go Tell It on the Mountain" LSB 388

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

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 *"Joy to the World"* LSB 387

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.

Who then receives this Sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." But he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

SERMON NOTES: Matthew 2:13-23

The Story of Joseph in Two Acts

1. The story of _____ of Nazareth in the _____ Testament is little more than a two-act play in which the title character never _____ a single word.
2. _____'s revelation often _____ with _____'s reasoning.
_____ set aside his own human _____ to follow God's _____:
3. He was _____ with his humble _____ in life.
4. He made his _____ his priority rather than his _____.
5. He led his _____ regularly to the house of God to _____.
6. He obeyed _____, even when he did not fully _____.

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

- Day 363 - Mon 12/29: Revelation 12-15
- Day 364 - Tue 12/30: Revelation 16-19
- Day 365 - Wed 12/31: Revelation 20-22

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.

10am Adult Sunday School Series! Join us next Sunday for the study, *Drive Thru History: History of the Bible,* as we explore how the Scriptures have been preserved, translated, and passed down through generations.

Epiphany Sisters of the Light: We are taking a break from meeting during Advent and the Christmas season. Join us at 6pm on Tuesday, January 13 for a discussion of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. We will share a light supper, fellowship, prayer, and key takeaways from the book. Plenty of time to start reading! Need a book? Contact Carole at (817) 614-3916.

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).

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** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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.

ChristianBook Giveback Program: Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit christianbook.com/apps/giveback and enter the Giveback ID for Epiphany Lutheran Church: JQWHTN. After this one-time signup, we'll be eligible to receive 4% cashback on your purchases.

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. The story of ***Joseph*** of Nazareth in the ***New*** Testament is little more than a two-act play in which the title character never ***says*** a single word.
2. ***God***'s revelation often ***conflicts*** with ***man***'s reasoning.
Joseph set aside his own human ***reasoning*** to follow God's ***revelation.***
3. He was ***content*** with his humble ***station*** in life.
4. He made his ***family*** his priority rather than his ***career.***
5. He led his ***family*** regularly to the house of God to ***worship.***
6. He obeyed ***God,*** even when he did not fully ***understand.***

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, December 28th

- 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

Sunday, January 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

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. Michael and Shanna Hageman – Missionaries in Tanzania
- All those who are traveling during the holidays

Faith When the Story Isn't Clear

Joseph and Mary stand at the center of the Christmas story not because they spoke eloquently or performed miracles, but because they trusted God when obedience carried real cost. Their faith was not abstract or sentimental. It was lived out under pressure, misunderstanding, and risk—conditions that feel strikingly modern.

Mary was young, unmarried, and pregnant. In her culture, this was not merely embarrassing; it was dangerous. She could have been publicly shamed, divorced before the wedding, or worse. Yet when the angel announced God's impossible plan, Mary responded with words that still echo across centuries: *"Let it be to me according to your word."* She did not demand a full explanation or a guarantee of safety. She trusted the character of the God who had spoken.

Joseph's test of faith was quieter but no less costly. When he learned that Mary was pregnant, he faced a decision that would shape the rest of his life. To take her as his wife would mean accepting suspicion, gossip, and the loss of his good name. The Gospel tells us that Joseph was a righteous man—and righteousness, in this case, meant obedience to God rather than protection of reputation. After the angel's dream, Joseph did exactly what the Lord commanded him. No speeches. No conditions. He simply obeyed.

In a 21st-century world that prizes control, clarity, and public image, Joseph and Mary model a faith that feels countercultural. We are accustomed to asking, *"How will this affect me?"* or *"What will others think?"* before we act. We often want God to reveal the full plan before we trust Him with the next step. Joseph and Mary remind us that faith often begins with only enough light for today.

Their story speaks directly into our lives. Faith today still involves costly trust—choosing integrity when cutting corners would be easier, standing by truth when it brings misunderstanding, loving faithfully when there is no applause. It may mean saying yes to God's call to serve, to forgive, to give generously, or to speak the Gospel, even when it complicates our plans or unsettles our comfort.

Joseph and Mary also remind us that God works through ordinary people. Neither held a title. Neither lived a life that history would have recorded apart from God's intervention. Yet through their quiet faithfulness, God brought salvation into the world. This is good news for us. God still works through ordinary obedience—through parents raising children in the faith, believers showing up in service, Christians trusting God in unseen, uncelebrated ways.

At Christmas, we often focus on the miracle of Christ's birth—and rightly so. But the faith of Joseph and Mary shows us how God's miracle enters the world: through trust, obedience, and hearts open to His Word. Their example calls us not simply to admire the Christmas story, but to live it—trusting that the God who was faithful to them is faithful still, even when the path ahead is not yet clear.