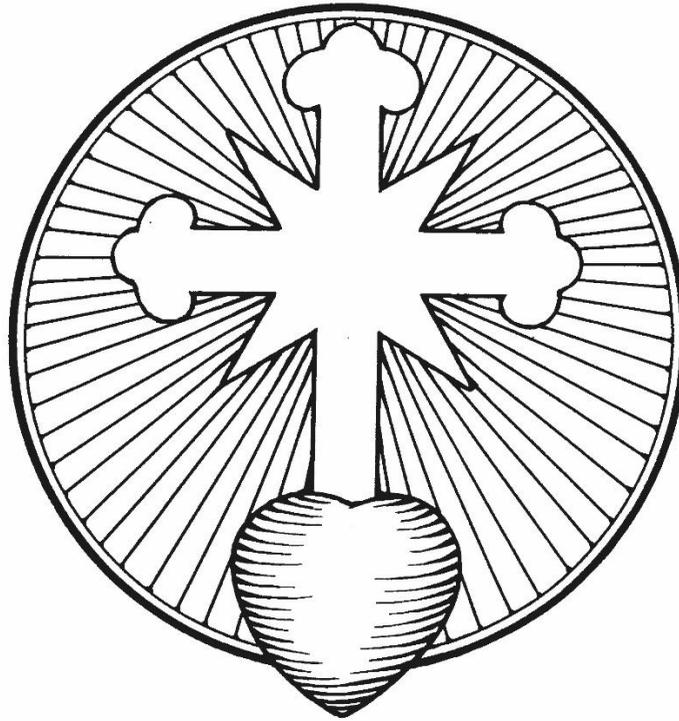


Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

Ash Wednesday



**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  
Pastor’s cell (Voicemail/Text) – (737)332-1896  
Pastor’s email – [pastor@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanybastrop.org)

Church Phone – (512) 907-0717  
[church@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:church@epiphanybastrop.org)  
[epiphanybastrop.org/](http://epiphanybastrop.org/)  
[facebook.com/epiphanybastrop](https://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 evening 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.



---

### SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS EVENING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh  
Assisting Elder – Dave Layland

---

### AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS EVENING:

***Return to the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, for He Has Reconciled You to Himself***

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our face toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by way of repentance, and thus we return to our dying and rising in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, “*who knew no sin,*” became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we “*become the righteousness of God*” (2 Cor. 5:21). As God has thereby reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, “*now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation*” (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left “*a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering*” (Joel 2:14) in the Eucharist. He summons us to return to Him with all our heart because He is “*gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love*” (Joel 2:13). We do so with faith and confidence in Him, and so we pray to Him as our Father, give to the needy from a heart of love, and fast for the sake of repentance (Matt. 6:3–4, 6, 17–18).

## +IMPOSITION OF ASHES+

**P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*Silence for reflection*

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The pastor places ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place in silence.*

**P** Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace. You are free.

**C** Thanks be to God!



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

## +PREPARATION+

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9*

**P** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

**C** Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

**P** The Lord is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**P** The Lord is good to all,

**C** and His mercy is over all that He has made.

### Confession and Absolution

*Philippians 2:1-11*

**P** Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have offended You. By nature, I am sinful and unclean. Time and again I have not honored Your name or walked in Your ways. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and for eternity, I am truly sorry for my transgressions and sincerely repent of them. In Your great mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, forgive me all my sins, and by the directing of the Holy Spirit, lead me to walk in paths of blessedness.

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

+WORD+

Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You call Your straying people to return to You in repentance and contrition, and You graciously have promised forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that, forgiven and free, we may live each day in joyful hope as Your well-loved children; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn

*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB #430



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es  
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their  
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
King. Then “Cru - ci - fy!” Is all their breath,  
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
Who at my need His life did spend!  
And for His death They thirst and cry.  
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suffering goes  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text: Public domain

Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110477735

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to Me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for He is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and He relents over disaster.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether He will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind Him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep  
and say, “Spare Your people, O LORD,  
and make not Your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,  
“Where is their God?””

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for His land  
and had pity on His people.

<sup>19</sup>The LORD answered and said to His people,  
“Behold, I am sending to you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied;  
and I will no more make you  
a reproach among the nations.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 41:1-2

**P** May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.

**C** **May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.**

**P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!  
In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;  
the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;  
he is called blessed in the land;  
You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

**C** **May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make His face to shine upon us.**

## Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

<sup>20b</sup>We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

**C** Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

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



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
 fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930-2024  
 Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh  
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110477735  
 Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Which Heart Do You See?*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## 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**

*When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.*

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend His pilgrim people from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our national church body and for this local congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the fostering of unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father and for all who are involved in ministries of outreach and care, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably; and for the people being governed, that they may contribute to the well-being of society, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who serve in all worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and grant them a sense of value and satisfaction through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve, comfort, and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all the faithful in this household of faith and beyond, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, and for all in service vocations of healing and providing safety and care in our communities, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but will rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

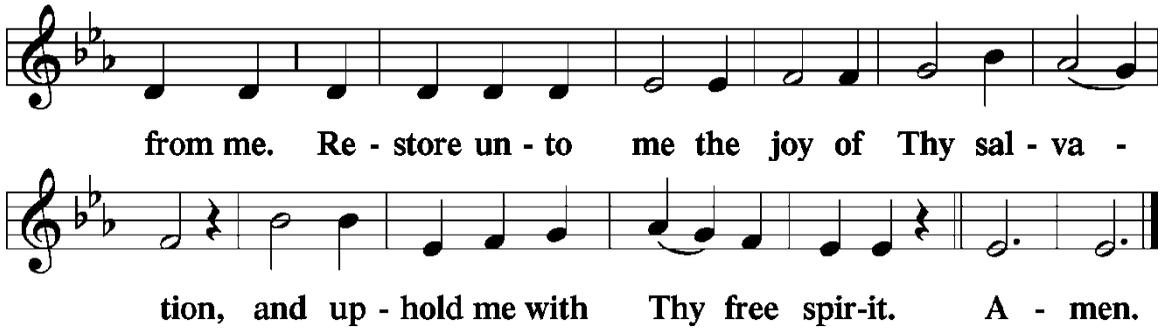
Offering

Usher

*Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.*

## Offertory

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



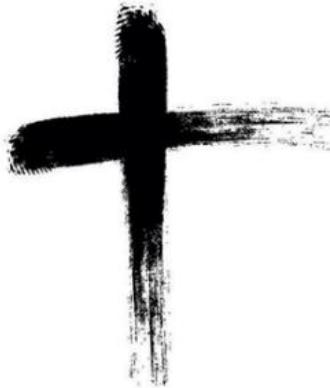
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

### Closing Collect

- P** Almighty and merciful God, You call Your people to repentance and forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became poor for us that we might rejoice in the riches of Your gracious kingdom.
- C Amen.**

### Benediction

- 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.
- C Amen.**





1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
 life ar - raign'd; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Text and tune: Public domain