

Sunday, March 22nd 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



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@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 – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Dave Layland
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life

The illness and death of Lazarus happened “*that the Son of God may be glorified through it*” (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die “*for the nation*” and gather “*into one the children of God who are scattered abroad*” (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to “*unbind him, and let him go*” (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not “*submit to God’s law,*” nor could we “*please God*” (Rom. 8:7–8), but “*he condemned sin*” in His own flesh so “*that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*” (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, “*the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells*” in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Prelude | | Selected Music |
| Welcome and Greeting | | Pastor |
| Announcements | | |
| Opening Hymn | <i>“In the Very Midst of Life”</i> | LSB 755 |
| <i>(stand)</i> | | |

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.

C **Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 116:1-4, 8

P I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

C **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

C **Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

P For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

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.***



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and

breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Holy Gospel Reading

John 11:17-27, 38-53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "**Take away the stone.**" Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.**" ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**"

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but

being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day “O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life” LSB 552 sts. 1,9, 10,4

Sermon

Either Flesh or Spirit

Romans 8:1-11

(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 meet, 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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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



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 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 Hymn

“My Song is Love Unknown”

LSB 430

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

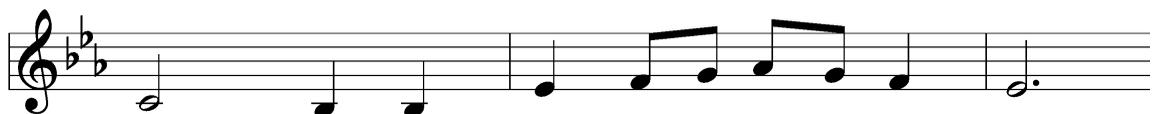
Luke 2:29-32



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

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

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.

TABLE OF DUTIES

Parents

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4.

SERMON NOTES: Romans 8:1-11

Either Flesh or Spirit

1. For I have the _____ to do what is _____, but not the _____ to carry it out. (Romans 7:18)
2. There is therefore now _____ condemnation for those who are in _____ . (Romans 8:1)
3. The _____ reveals our crooked _____ and _____ for God's judgment.
4. For _____ has done what the _____, weakened by the _____, could not do. (Romans 8:3)
5. The righteousness which the _____ requires cannot be realized by walking according to the _____, but only by walking according to the _____.
6. Since God's Spirit is the absolute _____ of the old sin power, it is easy to tell who dwells in the _____ of your _____.



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.



10am Adult Sunday School Update: Our current Lent study, *Symbols of Our Savior*, will wrap up on Palm Sunday (3/29). On 4/12 we'll begin a 19-week video study, *Drive Thru History: Ends of the Earth*, and follow host Dave Stotts as he travels the globe to tell the 2,000-year story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the Ends of the Earth!

Join us Wednesday for our **Last Lent Midweek Gathering** at the Three Oaks location at 6:30pm (light supper, video study)!

Upcoming **Zoom Bible study opportunities** on the horizon:

- What if the Bible contains the oldest “map of the world”? In the next one-hour, one-time **FLASH STUDY on Zoom** on Monday 3/23 at 6pm, ***The World According to Genesis 10***, we'll watch an 18-minute video that explores the fascinating Table of Nations in Genesis 10, where the Bible says the nations of the world came from. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-Nations
- Are you weary from your challenges, wounded by your battles, or worried your world is spinning out of control? Have the struggles pilfered the life out of your life? If so, the book of Esther brings welcome news: Relief will come! Our **Thursday 6pm Zoom video study** picks up again on 4/9

(Thursday after Easter) with *You Were Made for This Moment*, a 4-week series based on the OT book of Esther. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-ThisMoment

Holy Week Schedule: Maundy Thursday (4/2) and Good Friday (4/3) services at 7pm at Three Oaks; Easter Sunday (4/5) at SDA - 10am brunch (no Sunday school), 11:30am service. **IMPORTANT NOTE!** Easter Sunday will be our last worship service at the SDA.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with the dedication service on Saturday, May 2. Contact Linda Hanson or Terri Rosser.

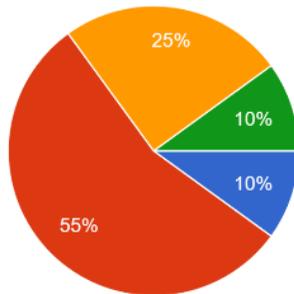
Land Dedication Service May 2nd: Please RSVP by scanning this QR code or contact Terri Rosser.



SURVEY SAYS... Here's the final tally from our brief Sunday Schedule Survey taken by our member households:

Which schedule would you most prefer?

20 responses



- Option A – Current Schedule (10:00 AM Sunday School, 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship, 11:30 AM Worship)
- Option B – Earlier Schedule (9:00 AM Sunday School, 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 AM Worship)
- Option C – Worship First (9:00 AM Worship, 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 AM Sunday School)
- Option D - No preference

It looks like we'll be changing our Sunday schedule to 9am Sunday School and 10:30am worship, most likely the first Sunday after Easter. More info soon.

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 KLBK (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at 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.



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.

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...

- Deaconess Kim Bueltmann – missionary in Germany
 - Scott – Alison Parker’s Brother
 - Johnnie – Sandy Giro’s Brother
-

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. For I have the *desire* to do what is *right* but not the *ability* to carry it out. (Romans 7:18)
2. There is therefore now *no* condemnation for those who are in *Christ Jesus*. (Romans 8:1)
3. The *Law* reveals our crooked *ways* and *calls* for God’s judgment.
4. For *God* has done what the *law*, weakened by the *flesh*, could not do. (Romans 8:3)
5. The righteousness which the *Law* requires cannot be realized by walking according to the *flesh*, but only by walking according to the *Spirit*.
6. Since God’s Spirit is the absolute *opposite* of the old sin power, it is easy to tell who dwells in the *house* of your *heart*.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, March 22nd

- 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

Monday, March 23rd

- 6:00pm – Flash Study on Zoom: *The World According to Genesis 10*

Wednesday, March 25th

- 6:30pm – Lent Midweek Gathering

Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday

- 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
-



One Table, One Confession

From time to time, we Lutheran Christians find ourselves worshiping in places outside our home congregation—perhaps while traveling, visiting friends, or attending a special gathering. In this day and age it’s not uncommon for churches of many different backgrounds to gather together for worship, prayer, or fellowship. Such opportunities can be encouraging, reminding us that the body of Christ extends far beyond our own congregation. Yet these moments can also raise an important question: *What about the Lord’s Supper?*

For Lutherans, the Lord’s Supper is not merely a symbolic act of remembrance. Scripture teaches that in this Sacrament we truly receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28). St. Paul writes, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?” (1 Corinthians 10:16). Because the Sacrament is such a holy gift, the apostle also urges Christians to examine themselves and receive it with understanding and faith (1 Corinthians 11:27–29).

But the Lord's Supper isn't merely a personal act between the believer and Christ. It's also a *public confession* of unity in the faith. When Christians gather at the altar together, they are declaring that they share the same understanding of Christ's Word and the same confession of what He gives in this meal. In fact, Paul connects the unity of the Church directly with the unity expressed at the Lord's Table: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17).

For this reason, we in the LCMS practice *close* (not closed) Communion, a practice is not meant to exclude or judge other Christians. Rather, it reflects our desire to be honest about what we believe and teach regarding the Lord's Supper. Many churches today understand Communion as a symbolic memorial, while Lutherans confess that Christ's true body and blood are present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. Because these differences are real, sharing the Lord's Supper together would imply a unity of belief that does not yet exist.

Think of it this way: the Lord's Supper is not a tool for creating unity; it's a celebration of unity that already exists in confession and faith. The altar is the place where the Church publicly says, "This is what we believe together."

This teaching should never lead us to pride or isolation. On the contrary, it should deepen our appreciation for the Sacrament Christ has given to His Church. At the altar, the risen Lord meets us personally, giving us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, strengthening our faith, and binding us together as His people.

In a world where Christian beliefs and practices vary widely, the Church is called to handle this holy gift with reverence and clarity. It's also helpful to remember that the Lord's Supper is not an evangelism outreach tool. For those who are exploring faith or are new our confession, the invitation is not exclusion but instruction—so that they may receive this holy gift with understanding and joy.