

Sunday, March 29th 2026

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion



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
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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 – Kim Appel
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Dave Layland
Acolyte – Madeline Robb

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming.” He comes in gentle humility, *“sitting on a donkey’s colt,”* yet also as the King of Israel *“in the name of the Lord”* (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service *“to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, *“God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name”* (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face *“from disgrace and spitting”* (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that *“after his resurrection”* we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Procession of Palms

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

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna to the Son of David.

Please wave palms during the hymn.



Processional Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

LSB 442 sts. 1-2

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,

Refrain

Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first two staves are the Refrain, and the last two are the main body of the hymn. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12–19

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

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

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵“Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

P Let us go forth in peace,


C **in the name of the Lord.**

Please wave palms during the hymn.

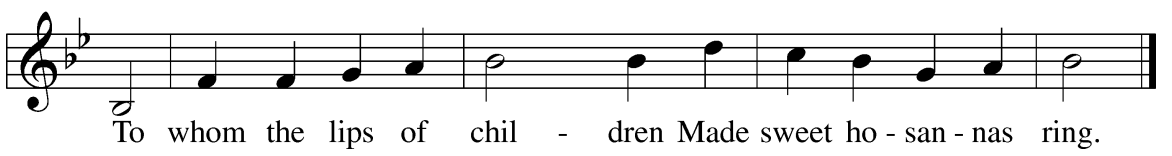
Processional Hymn “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB #442 sts. 3-5

Refrain

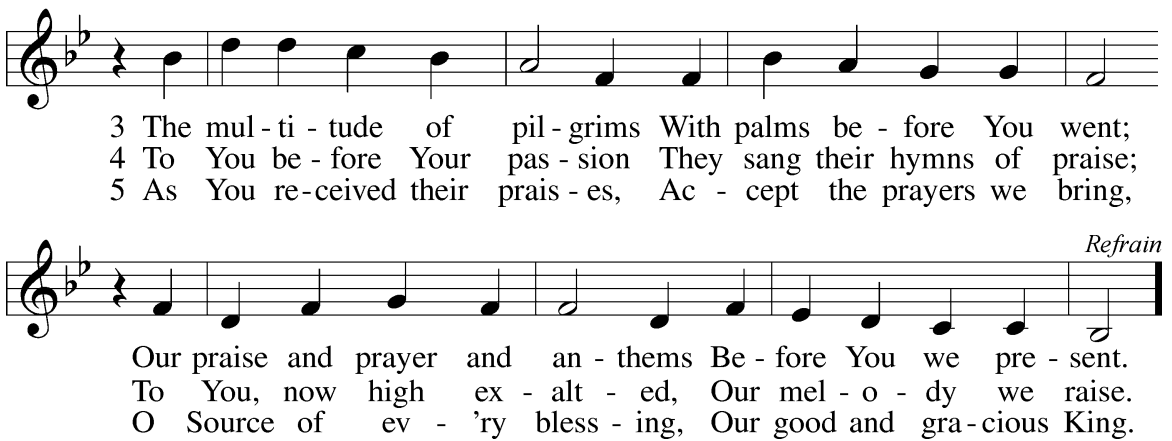


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Refrain

Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

When all have arrived at their places, the procession concludes with the following:

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

(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 24:7-10

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

C **Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

C **Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

***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 and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same 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 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Holy Gospel Reading

John 12:20-43

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked

him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them.”

⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

LSB 918

Sermon

“Who is this Son of Man?”

John 12:20-43

(stand)

Apostles’ Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

☩ Lord, in Your mercy

☩ 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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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:

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



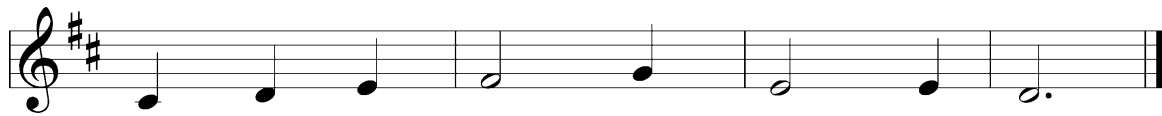
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
“No Tramp of Soldiers’ Marching Feet”

LSB 443
LSB 444

(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

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440

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

Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3.

SERMON NOTES: John 12:20-43

"Who is this Son of Man?"

1. Jesus accepts that he must _____ in order to fulfill his divine _____ and return to the _____.
2. God would never _____ the _____ of a true _____ to result in eternal damnation.
3. It is often said that the _____ of _____ has many admirers but few _____.
4. Jesus' warning to us all is that true _____ does not seek human _____, it seeks God's _____.
5. Jesus' claim be the _____ of _____ points back to Old Testament prophecy, a vision in _____ 7:13-14.
6. In Christ there is a *communion* of natures, so that the divine nature is the nature of the _____ of _____, and the human nature the nature of the Son of _____.
7. "If anyone _____ me, he must _____ me; and where I _____, there will my servant be also." (John 12:26)

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: Next Sunday 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)!

Thursday 6pm Zoom Video Study picks up again on 4/9 (Thursday after Easter) - 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! Join us for *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.

Sunday Schedule Change after Easter: We will be changing our Sunday schedule to 9am Sunday School, 10am coffee fellowship, and 10:30am worship in conjunction with our transition from the SDA to Three Oaks effective 4/12 (the first Sunday after Easter).

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.



Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [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.

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 Heide Bishop de Mazariegos and Cristian Mazariegos Muñoz and their son, Andrew – missionaries in
- Fay Betak, Jim Haynes, Elaine Ottinger, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
- Anita Hickman, as well as her daughters, Sarah and Jennifer
- Carl Sneek



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).



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

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

Thursday, April 2nd

- 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

Friday, April 3rd

- 6:30pm – Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday

- 10:00am – Easter Brunch
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

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**.



“Sir, We Wish to See Jesus” → *Connect. Grow. Multiply.*

During His earthly ministry, Jesus carried out what we might call “a three-year seminary program.” For roughly 36 months he gathered disciples, taught them, and then sent them out. His method was simple, yet profound: *Connect. Grow. Multiply.*

First, Jesus *connected* people to himself. Fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, and ordinary men and women heard his call: “Follow me.” They left their nets, their booths, and their old lives behind to walk with Him.

Then Jesus helped them *grow*. Day after day they listened to his teaching, watched his miracles, asked their questions, and sometimes struggled to understand. Jesus patiently formed them, correcting their misunderstandings and strengthening their faith.

But Jesus never intended for His disciples simply to gather around Him forever. The goal was always that they would *multiply*—that the message of salvation would spread far beyond the small circle walking the dusty roads of Galilee.

We see a glimpse of that mission in John 12:20–43, when some Greeks approach Philip and say, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” These are not Jews but Gentiles—outsiders—drawn to Jesus during Passover. Their request signals something important: the mission of Jesus is beginning to extend beyond Israel.

Jesus responds with words that at first seem puzzling: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

Here Jesus reveals how the mission will multiply. A single grain of wheat planted in the ground dies—but from that death comes a harvest. In the same way, Jesus’ death on the cross would not end his mission; it would unleash it. Through his sacrifice, salvation would spread to the nations.

The Greeks seeking Jesus are a preview of that harvest. And we are part of it.

Everything the Church does flows from this same pattern Jesus established: Connect. Grow. Multiply. We connect people to Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel. We grow together through His Word and the gifts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. And then, strengthened by those gifts, we multiply—sharing the Good News so that others may also come to see Jesus.

This multiplication rarely happens in dramatic ways. Often it looks simple: an invitation to worship, a conversation over coffee, a neighbor who asks a question about faith. But each moment is like a seed planted in the soil. God gives the growth.

Jesus' own ministry seemed small at first—just a handful of disciples following a rabbi through Galilee. Yet through His death and resurrection the harvest has spread across the world.

And the work continues. When someone today says, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus," the Lord answers that request through His Church—through believers like you and me.

