

Sunday, April 26th 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Connect. Grow. Multiply.

Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

Physical Address:

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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

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

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

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

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Lay Reader – Deb Layland
Assisting Elder – Dave Sager
Usher – Rosie Cabrera
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

We are using the Church Music Solutions Church Organist Service, an iPad application that provides us with accompaniment for our church service. **There is a brief introduction to the musical parts of liturgy unless otherwise noted.**

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd

Although we “*were straying like sheep,*” the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins “*in his body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we “*have life and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). Now through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the feast of His table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also “*hear his voice*” and “*know his voice*” (John 10:3–4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in “*the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship*” and in “*the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude		Selected Music
Welcome and Greeting		Pastor
Announcements		
Opening Hymn	<i>“Shepherd of Tender Youth”</i>	LSB 864
<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. *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 95:1-3, 6-7a

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

P **For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

C **Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

P For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



☐ 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By

his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name

and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* LSB 709

Sermon *“I am the door of the sheep.”* John 10:1-10

(stand)

Apostles’ Creed

C 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

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (no intro)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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 Hymn *“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”* LSB 710

(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 Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

Easter Acclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

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

All Christians

You shall love your neighbor as yourself...I exhort...that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:1.

SERMON NOTES: John 10:1-10

"I am the door of the sheep."

1. _____'s _____ contains many contrasting _____ such as light and darkness, life and death, belief and unbelief, truth and falsehood, love and hate...good and bad.
2. The door of the sheep is a metaphor that contains the 3rd of _____ statements recorded by John that invoke the divine name of God—" _____ "—in each.
3. By " _____ and _____," Jesus includes the _____ leaders, past and present, all of whom are self-seekers.
4. When Jesus says that his sheep hear and know his _____, he doesn't mean his audible _____, but rather his _____ in the written Word.
5. If Jesus' _____—his true followers— _____ in God's word, they will _____ from false teaching.
6. The Good Shepherd _____, _____, and _____, so that through Him we may have life, and have it abundantly!

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.



9am Adult Sunday School: Join us as we continue the video study, *Drive Thru History: Ends of the Earth*. We're following 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.

Thursday 6pm Zoom Video Study: Join us for *You Were Made for This Moment*, a video study based on the OT book of Esther. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-ThisMoment

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](https://www.facebook.com/KFUORadio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUORadio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUORadio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUORadio).

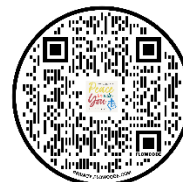
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Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our **Peace Be With You** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



Answers to Sermon Notes:

1. *John's Gospel* contains many contrasting *ideas* such as light and darkness, life and death, belief and unbelief, truth and falsehood, love and hate, good and bad.
2. The door of the sheep is a metaphor that contains the 3rd of 7 statements recorded by John that invoke the divine name of God—"I Am"—in each.
3. By "*thieves* and *robbers*," Jesus includes the *Jewish* leaders, past and present, all of whom are self-seekers.
4. When Jesus says that his sheep hear and know his *voice*, he doesn't mean his audible *voice* but rather his *voice* in the written Word.
5. If Jesus *sheep*—his true followers—*graze* in God's word, they will *flee* from false teaching.
6. The Good Shepherd *gathers, feeds, and sends* so that through Him we may have life, and have it abundantly!

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. Jonathan Anderson – missionary in Panama
 - Fey Betak, Francis Eschberger, Jim Haynes, Anita Hickman, Ranita Murphy, Elaine Ottinger, Sally Potthast, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
 - Rev. Timothy Dinger - Rosie Cabrera's former pastor
 - Carl and Sandy Sneek
 - The Cliftons
-

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, April 26th

- 9:00am – Children's Sunday School
- 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Thursday, April 30th

- 6:00pm – Zoom Video Study: *You Were Made for This Moment*

Saturday, May 2nd

- 10:00am – Land Dedication Service and BBQ Meal

Sunday, May 3rd

- 9:00am – Children's Sunday School
 - 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
 - 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
 - 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion
-

3-minute



The Door to the Sheep

In John 10:7, when Jesus says, “I am the door of the sheep,” he is using a familiar image from shepherding. Sheepfolds often had a single entry—one opening—and the shepherd himself would sometimes lie across that opening at night. Nothing entered or exited except through him. So when Jesus calls himself “the door,” He is making an exclusive and protective claim: he alone is the entry point to safety, life, and fellowship with God.

From a Lutheran perspective, this fits squarely within the doctrine of justification by grace through faith. Jesus is not merely a way among many; he is the way. Access to the Father, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life come only through him. This echoes his later statement in John 14:6. Our Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confession, Article IV) affirm that we are justified—declared righteous—solely for Christ’s sake, received through faith. In that sense, entering through the “door” means trusting in Christ alone, not in works, institutions, or personal merit.

At the same time, the image is deeply pastoral. Jesus is not just the entrance but also the guardian. “If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:9). Lutherans emphasize that Christ continues to serve as this “door” through the Means of Grace—the Gospel in Word and Sacrament—by which He brings people into His flock and keeps them there. Through preaching, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, He opens the door, gathers His sheep, and nourishes them.

There is also a warning embedded in the image. Just before this, Jesus speaks of “thieves and robbers”—false teachers who try to climb in another way. Lutheran theology takes this seriously: any teaching that directs people away from Christ as the sole source of salvation, or that replaces Him with human effort or spiritual alternatives, is a false entry into the sheepfold. The Church’s task is therefore to point always and only to Christ as the door.

In short, to confess “Jesus is the door” is to confess that he alone grants access to life with God, that he himself protects and sustains his flock, and that all who would be saved must enter through him—by grace, through faith, for his sake. It is both an exclusive claim and a profoundly comforting one.

