Sunday, November 8th 2026 **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH BASTROP

Connect. Grow. Multiply.

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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.

If you are not a member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive Communion, we kindly request that you first speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Lay Reader – Deana Guetersloh-Hanson
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Jeremy Clifton
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

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

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is *"darkness, and not light"* (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their *"burnt offerings and grain offerings,"* nor will He look upon their *"peace offerings"* (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets *"justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"* (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us *"to the dealers"* (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we *"encourage one another with these words"* (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes *"with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,"* and *"we will always be with the Lord"* (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR

Prelude Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn *"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"* LSB 514

(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 84:1, 9-12

P How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

**C Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!**

P For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

C For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

P No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C O LORD of hosts, blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis (no intro)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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



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



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



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; 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

Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

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

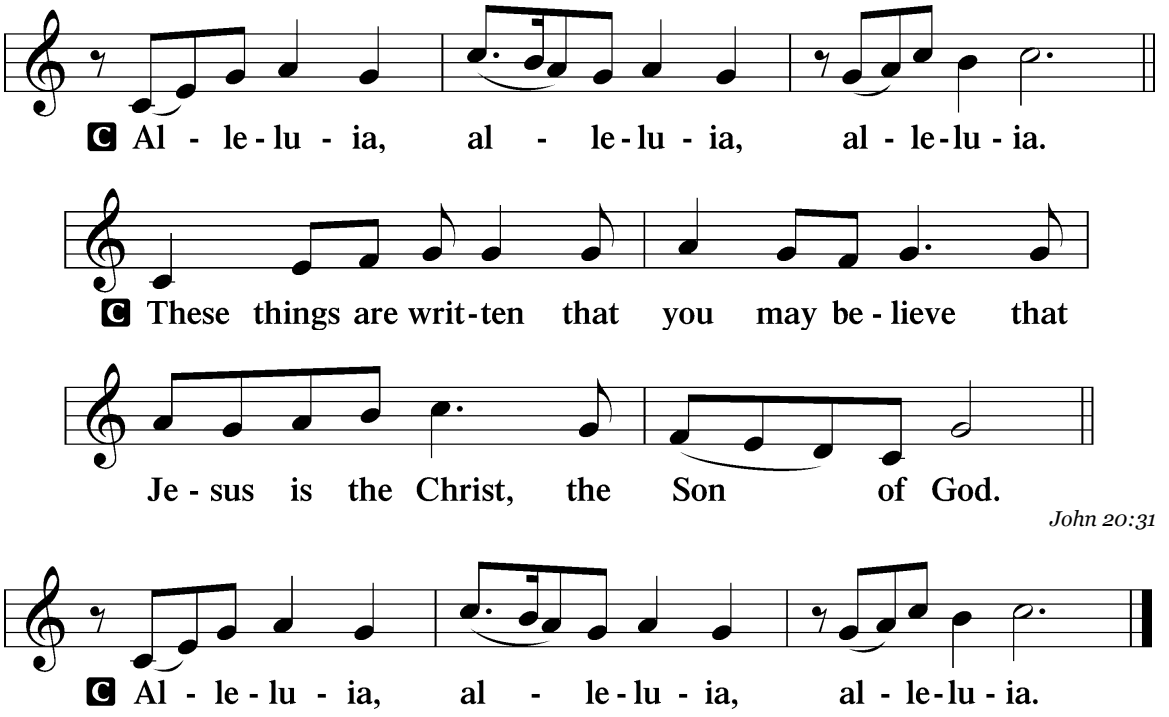
Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep,
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by a word from the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not
precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will descend from
heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the
sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who
are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet
the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

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

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took
their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five
were wise. 3For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with
them, 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was
delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a cry,
'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those virgins rose and
trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.' 9But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not
be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for
yourselves.' 10And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those
who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was
shut. 11Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to
us.' 12But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13Watch therefore,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"* LSB 516

Sermon *God sees right through the façade…* Matthew 25:1-13

(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

P Lord, in Your mercy
C **hear our prayer.**

Offering Usher

(stand)

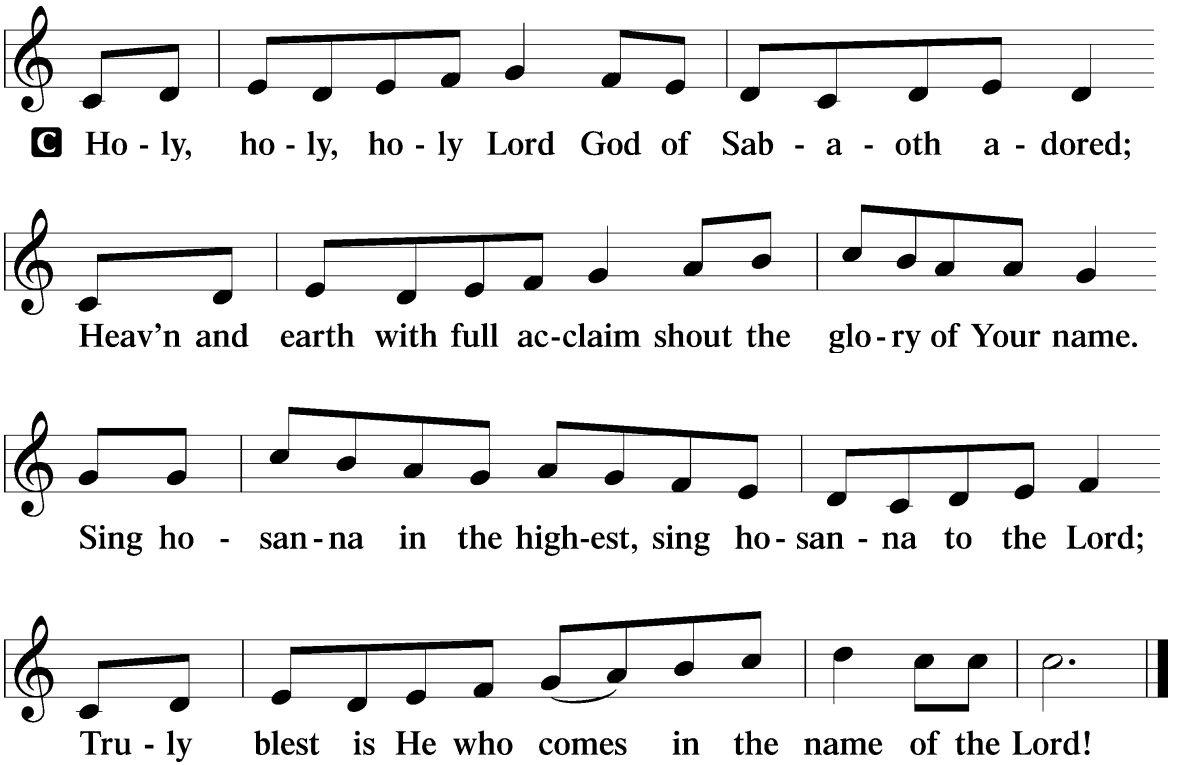
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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]*

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 (no intro) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Prayer of Thanksgiving

℗ 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."

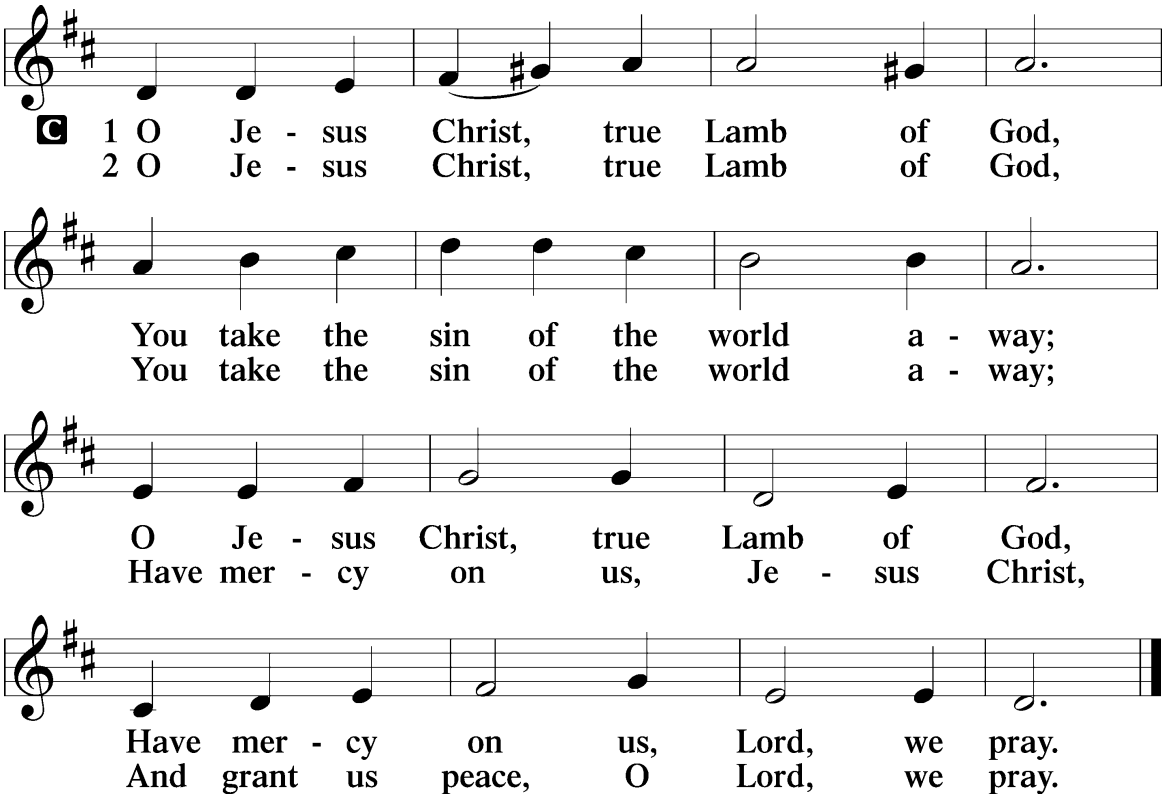
Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



(sit)

Distribution Hymns

"O God of Light"	LSB 836
"Soul, Adorn, Yourself with Gladness"	LSB 636

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord. *[Psalm 103:1]*

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C **Amen.**

(sit)

Closing Hymn "*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*" LSB 515

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.

SERMON NOTES: Matthew 25:1-13

God sees right through the façade…

1. "But concerning that _____ and _____ no one knows, not even the _____ of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36)
2. Those who use their _____, along with their reason and intellect, in the service of _____ and _____ are ready to meet their Bridegroom—Jesus—with lamps burning.
3. The _____ without _____ are like _____ done without faith.
4. Jesus places an emphasis on the _____, rather than the _____. Some Christians believe that just having the _____ is enough.
5. We do not do good works in order to become God's _____; we do good works because, through _____ in Christ, we already are God's _____.
6. It's not enough to go through the motions, to play the part of a faithful Christian when others are looking; _____ sees right _____ the _____.

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 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).

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 for *Gideon: There Is a Champion in You*, a study for anyone who has ever felt overwhelmed by chaos, trapped in insecurity, intimidated by opposition, or tempted to drift after success.

A reminder that we have an **Online Epiphany Church Directory**. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in. There's also a free mobile app available—simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. If you need help or have questions, contact Tom 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 **kfuo.org** and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—***RightNow Media*** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content

anywhere, anytime. Visit **app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb** or scan the QR code.

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

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…

- Aaron Reith – missionary in the Dominican Republic
- Francis Eschberger, Elaine Ottinger, Gert Schriner, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
- Elaine Ottinger
- Joan – Terri Rosser's Mother
- Rosie Cabrera

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, November 8th

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

Thursday, November 10th

- 6:20pm – Elders Meeting

Sunday, November 15th

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

Faith That Is Ready

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus tells of ten young women awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. All ten have lamps, all ten grow drowsy, and all ten fall asleep. Yet when the bridegroom finally arrives, only five are prepared to meet him. The others discover that their lamps are going out, and while they are away seeking oil, the door to the wedding feast is shut. Jesus concludes with a warning: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13).

At first glance, this parable might seem to teach that our salvation depends upon how well we prepare ourselves for Christ's return. But that would contradict the great Reformation teaching of sola fide—justification by faith alone.

The distinction lies in understanding what the oil represents. Jesus does not explicitly identify the oil, but it reminds us of the necessity of genuine, enduring faith. All ten virgins appeared ready. All carried lamps. Yet outward appearances were not enough. What mattered was whether they were truly prepared when the bridegroom came.

Faith alone saves, but saving faith is never alone. Genuine faith trusts in Christ and His promises, and that faith bears fruit in the Christian life. We do not earn our place at the heavenly wedding feast through good works, religious activity, or even our ability to remain spiritually vigilant. Our salvation rests entirely upon the saving work of Jesus Christ, received through faith.

But how is that faith created and sustained while we await our Bridegroom? Here the Lutheran understanding of the Means of Grace provides wonderful comfort. God does not leave us to manufacture faith or sustain it through our own determination. Through His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit continually works to create, nourish, and strengthen our faith. In Holy Baptism, God joins us to Christ and His saving promises. Through the preaching and hearing of His Word, He calls us to repentance and strengthens our trust in Him. In Holy Absolution, He assures us that our sins are forgiven. And in the Lord's Supper,

Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith.

This is why gathering for Divine Service, hearing God's Word, remembering our Baptism, and receiving the Lord's Supper are so important. These are not good works by which we earn salvation; they are gifts through which Christ comes to us with His grace. We do not keep our lamps burning by our own spiritual achievements. The Holy Spirit sustains our faith through the means Christ Himself has instituted.

The foolish virgins remind us that merely appearing Christian is not the same as trusting Christ. The wise virgins remind us that faith clings to the Bridegroom even when His coming seems delayed.

The Bridegroom *is* coming! And when He arrives, those who trust in Him will enter the eternal wedding feast—not because they have earned an invitation, but because He has graciously given them one.

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. "But concerning that ***day*** and ***hour*** no one knows, not even the ***angels*** of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36)
2. Those who use their ***senses***, along with their reason and intellect, in the service of ***God*** and ***neighbor*** are ready to meet their Bridegroom—Jesus—with lamps burning.
3. The ***lamps*** without ***oil*** are like ***works*** done without faith.
4. Jesus places an emphasis on the ***oil***, rather than the ***lamp***. Some Christians believe that just having the ***lamp*** is enough.
5. We do not do good works in order to become God's ***children***; we do good works because, through ***faith*** in Christ, we already are God's ***children***.
6. It's not enough to go through the motions, to play the part of a faithful Christian when others are looking; ***God*** sees right ***through*** the ***façade***.

