



Epiphany Lutheran Church

6606 Maplecrest Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
(260) 485-5122
www.epiphanyfw.com

12th Sunday of Pentecost

August 20, 2023

Worship on Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Worship on Mondays at 7:00 pm

Richard Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

With One Voice Setting

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcast of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

You are invited to let this prelude turn your heart to the Lord and prepare you to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to all visitors, and thank you for worshipping with us at Epiphany!
Please sign our guest register at the front door.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ have mercy on us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN 559 *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise.
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad. The honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease.
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin, He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood avails for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love, be now and ever giv'n.
By saints below and saints above, The Church is earth and heav'n.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you

KYRIE *(sing)*

A: *Kyrie eleison*

C: Lord have mercy.

A: *Christe eleison*

C: Christ have mercy.

A: *Kyrie eleison*

C: Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE *(WOV p.29)*

Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth.

1. Lord God heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world, have mercy on us. You are seated on the right hand of the Father, receive our pray-
er. *Refrain*

3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Je-
sus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Last Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.

SALUTATION

P: the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community- not race, nationality, or any other category.

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable, so that while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

P: The Gospel for this, the 12th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost, is taken from the gospel of Matthew, the 15th chapter, beginning with the 10th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 370 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
Blest be the tie that binds. our hearts in Christian love.
The unity of heart and mind, is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free.
And perfect love and friendship reign, through all eternity.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (*P: Pastor, B: Baptized*)

Anyone who celebrates their Baptismal Birthday in the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September, or anyone wanting to affirm their baptism are invited to gather

P: Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to affirm and remember the covenant God made with you at your Baptism. We rejoice that you now intend to make public profession of the faith into which you were baptized. Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

B: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

B: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

B: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

B: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A Brief Moment of Silence.*

Unite us, O God, so that all who worship receive assurance and nourishment by faith. Rescue those who suffer from religious persecution. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Teach us, O God, so that the holy mountains and peaceful valleys of your good creation can be restored to the health you intend. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Empower us, O God, to advocate for those on the margins. Open the hearts of leaders in every nation to serve those who are most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Equip us, O God, with your love for your brothers and sisters. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, and calm those in distress... we pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... *Vera, Don, Sarah, David, Barb, Jim, Sara, George, Sandi, Joe, Dawn, Terry, Karen* and for all of those whom we now name before you from our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Rouse us, O God, to praise you with gladness. We give thanks for musicians, worship leaders, intercessors, those who prepare the communion table, and all who make our worship express our joy! Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We give thanks, O God, for the saints who have deepened our lives of prayer. Gather us with them in endless praise of you. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

P: Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus. **AMEN**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

B: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with the sign of peace.



OFFERINGS *Please remember offerings can be mailed to
6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne IN 46835
or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.
Place offerings in basket on baptismal font*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray, Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: we lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: *It is indeed right and salutary We praise your name and join their unending hymn: (sing)*

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



***Everyone is welcome to come to the Lord's Table!
Those baptized who believe in the true presence of Christ
in the bread and wine are welcome to receive the elements.***

We will come up by sections to receive communion and return to our seats around the back side of the altar, remembering our social distancing.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us Pray, Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he is us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C: Amen

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 718 "Here In This Place"

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in the rich and the haughty Gather us in the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true..

Not in the dark of buildings confining Not in some heaven light years away
Here in this place the new light is shining Now is the kingdom and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever Gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in all peoples together Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

DISMISSAL: P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Pastor	Richard Hartman
Pianist 10:15	Amanda Pickett
Pianist 8:00	Lillian Anderson
Lector 8:00	Cheryl Ralston
Communion Assistant 8:00	Dave York
Lector 10:15	Shane Pickett
Communion Assistant 10:15	Dia Herb
Assistant Minister 10:15	Jim Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers Today in celebration of Jack Swanson's 70th birthday!

School Kit items

DO NEED - drawstring back packs, wooden pencils unsharpened, stick pens blue or black ink, child size scissors.

Layette Needs: Long sleeved shirts and pants, Short sleeved Shirts, socks, hats, sweater or sweat-shirts, **hand towels, receiving blankets and baby blankets** and Clothing sizes 3 month to 2T (no fleece),

Health Kit Needs: Light weight bath towels

Watch Rummage and Garage Sales - Quilters can use sheets, blankets and mattress pads for middles and backs full size and larger.

Ongoing Military Support - Sending Care Packages - Granola Bars, pocket size paper back Books, Gum, Mints, personal size Hand Sanitizer, Life Savers, Playing Cards, Crackers (Cheese or peanut butter), Chap stick, Wipes, Jerky, Puzzle Books and Hard Candies. We have sent 3 boxes recently.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 8/20	8:00 am & 10:15 am <i>Worship Affirmation of Faith</i> 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School
MONDAY	7:00 pm Worship
THURSDAY	6:00 - 8:00pm Mill Ridge Annual Meeting
SATURDAY	11:00 am - 12:00 pm Zo Baptist Prayer Meeting/Undercroft 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship
SUNDAY 8/27	8:00 am & 10:15 am <i>Worship Affirmation of Faith</i> 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School



Becky Roemer - August 25th!

Steve & Nina Haag
August 25th - 21 years!

Bob & Ruby Havers
August 26th - 73 years!