



I choose
to give to this
last worker the
same as I give
to you.

Matthew 20:14, ESV

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

**17th Sunday of Pentecost
September 24, 2023**

Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am
Monday Worship: 7:00 pm
Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ IN NOMINE JESU +

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter what they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Ninevah for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

✠ 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 coming to worship at Epiphany!
Please sign our guest register and ask anyone for assistance.*

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 by 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. Forgive us, renew us, and lead 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 383 *“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”*

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn.

Christ rose triumphant that your hearts, with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth’s frame.

As heirs of God’s baptismal grace, His word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom’s task embrace.

Redress sin’s cruel consequence, Give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain.

Stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek, the paths which Christ has trod.

And quickened by the Spirit’s power, Rise up, O saints of God!

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 God’s 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 prayer.

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

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

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

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

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s 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)*

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **AMEN**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: you, Jonah are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Psalm 145:1-8 (*Speak responsively with Assistant*)

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴**One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works,
I will meditate.

⁶**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.**

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy

in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P: The Gospel for this, the 17th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost, is taken from the gospel of Matthew, the 20th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 777 *“In the Morning When I Rise”*

**In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.**

Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.

You can have all the rest, give me Jesus.

Dark...midnight was my cry, dark...midnight was my cry.

Dark...midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. Refrain

Just about the break of day, just about the break of day.

Just about the break of day, give me Jesus. Refrain

Oh...when I come to die, oh...when I come to die.

Oh...when I come to die, give me Jesus. Refrain

And...when I want to sing, and...when I want to sing,

And...when I want to sing, give me Jesus. Refrain

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made
man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. *A Brief Moment of Silence.*

Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God who stretched the spangled heavens, we thank and praise you for the gift of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys, grasslands, and deserts. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you provide for all our needs. We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored or isolated. We pray for all in any need... especially for these members of Epiphany Lutheran Church... *Sarah, Don, Vera, David, Barb, Jim, Sara, George, Sandi, Joe, Dawn, Terry, Karen, Lilly* and for all of these whom we name now from our hearts... Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray for this congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of endings and beginnings, we remember before all you and the faithful departed. Comfort those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **AMEN**

PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with the Peace of the Lord.



OFFERINGS - PLACE ON BAPTISMAL FONT IN BASKET

*Please remember offerings can be dropped off at church
mailed to Epiphany Lutheran Church,
6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne IN 46835
or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.*

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 *(sing)*

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:

**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,.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength 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 in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C: Amen

BLESSING

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

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 780 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

**What a fellowship, what joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain**

Refrain: **Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain**

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
Lector 8:00	Cheryl Ralston
Communion Assistant 8:00	David York
Lector 10:15	Becky Roemer
Communion Assistant 10:15	Mark Herb
Pianist	Amanda Pickett
Assistant Minister	Jim Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers - provided by Cindy Rice.

Military Support - we continue to send items to be distributed to our troops overseas. Place items in the red bin in the narthex.

September Outreach - Associated Churches foodbank, bring in non perishable food to share with our community!

Congregational Quarterly Meeting: TODAY Breakfast starts at 8:45 am and meeting at 9:00 am. **Please plan to attend**, we will have information on the driveway reconstruction.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 9-24 **8:00 and 10:15 Worship**
9:00 am Congregational Meeting/Breakfast 8:45
12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Sunday School and Worship

MONDAY 8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC
7:00 pm Worship

THURSDAY 8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC

SATURDAY *11:00 - 12:00 Zo Baptist Prayer Meeting*
12:00 - 4:00 Private Party
6:00 - 8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship

SUNDAY 10/1 **8:00 and 10:15 Worship**
12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Sunday School and Worship
3:00-5:00 Private Event



This
Week's
Anniversaries

Lee & Sandy Hedin
September 18th - 47 years!

Richard & Nancy Lee
September 21st - 38 years!