



World Missions

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

**14th Sunday of Pentecost
September 10, 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 ✠

Conflict is a part of relationship and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

✠ 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 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 551 *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing ever blest.
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

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.

SALUTATION

P: the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(unison)*

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God- who is about to attack Jerusalem- gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm 119:33-40 *(Read responsively with Assistant)*

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

³⁶**Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

³⁸**Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰**See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.

Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew from the 18th chapter beginning with the 15th verse.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals- and the church as a whole- should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 748 "Bind Us Together"

Refrain: Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King.

There is only one Body. That is why we can sing: Refrain

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.

You are God's chosen desire; you are the glorious new wine. Refrain

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church

the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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.*

We pray for the church universal. Reconcile our differences. Forgive our divisions. Unite us at your table. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

For your creation. Increase our stewardship of all that you have given to us. Let the earth flourish for those who come after us. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

For peace in the world. End conflicts among nations. Help leaders and citizens truly to listen to one another and to act for the good of all. Teach us by your example. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

For all those in need. Bind up our hurts. Heal divisions in our families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Comfort those who need your special care... we pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... *Vera, Don, Sarah, Jim, Barb, David, Sara, George, Sandi, Joe, Dawn, Terry, Karen* and for all of those whom we now name before you from our hearts... Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

For this congregation. Make us signs of your love and forgiveness in this community and in the world. Help us to grow in our love for one another. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

In thanksgiving for all the faithful witnesses who put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful until the day we rejoice in your majesty with them. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

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 online with the peace of the Lord!.



*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.***

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 “God’s Work, Our Hands “

**God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
Raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

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/Communion Assistant 8:00	Richard & Nancy Lee
Lector 10:15	Mike Rumfield
Communion Assistant 10:15	Steve Haag
Pianist	Alicia Davis
Assistant Minister	Amber Logan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Work Our Hands - TODAY after services.
Come help assemble kits.

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: September 24th. Sign up for breakfast before the meeting. 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 9-10** **8:00 and 10:15 Worship Camp Sunday**
9:00 am Assemble Lutheran World Relief Kits
11:15 am Finish assembling kits
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
6:00 - 8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship
- SUNDAY 9-17** **8:00 and 10:15 Worship**
8:45 am Council Meeting
12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Sunday School and Worship

