



World Missions

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

17th Sunday of Pentecost
September 15, 2024
Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am
Monday Worship: 7:00 pm
Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

✠ 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.*

BLESSING OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS AND QUILTS

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 504 "O God, My Faithful God" Green Hymnal
O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing.
Without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing.
Give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
A conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.

Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing.
Whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling.
To do it when I ought, with all my strength and bless
Whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.

Keep me from saying words that later need recalling.
Guard me. Lest idle speech may from my lips be falling.
But when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.

When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless.
Help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless.
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,
And by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.

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 (*spoken*)

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*)

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 116:1-9 (*read responsively Assistant/Congregation*)

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"**

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶**The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

⁹I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

SECOND READING James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,

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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. We pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... **Vera, Jim, Sarah, Barb, Sandi, Sara, George, Karen, Ayden** and for those we lift up from our hearts... Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses, bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

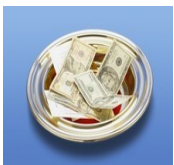
We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **AMEN**

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.*

and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark from the 8th chapter beginning with the 27th verse.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN - SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 377 "Lift High the Cross" Green Hymnal

Refrain : Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

**Come Christians follow where our captain trod
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God Refrain**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain**

**All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain**

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; The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “*God’s Work, Our Hands* “ 558 tune/Green Hymnal

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
Assistant Minister	Mark Herb
Communion Assistant	Alicia Davis
Lector	Shane Pickett
Technology Support	Kristen Davis
Greeter	Cheryl Ralston
Altar Guild	Haag's

September	Deposits	Bills Paid	Balance
9/1/2024	2,034.51	522.32	1,512.19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Work Our Hands - TODAY after services.

Come help assemble kits.

Altar Flowers - by Dave York in memory of Connie's birthday.

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 29th. 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 and parking lot repaving.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 9-15	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Assemble Lutheran World Relief Kits 12:00 pm Picnic/Potluck 12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Sunday School and Worship
MONDAY	8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC 7:00 pm Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm Meal 6:30 Bible Study
THURSDAY	8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC 6:00 pm Hillsboro/Library
SATURDAY	11:00 - 12:00 Zo Baptist Prayer Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship
SUNDAY 9-22	8:00 and 10:15 Worship 8:45 am Council Meeting 12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Sunday School and Worship 12:30-5:00 pm Private Event



Lee and Sandy Hedin
September 18th - 48 years!

Richard and Nancy Lee
September 21st - 39 years!