

“Whoever welcomes
one such child
in my name
welcomes me.”

MARK 9:37, NRSV



Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

18th Sunday in Pentecost

September 22, 2024

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

Worship on Mondays: 7:00 pm

Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

THE FEAST OF LIFE

A Contemporary Communion Liturgy

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

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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!
If you have any questions, please feel free to ask anyone for assistance.
Please sign our guest book by the front doors.*

THE PREPARATION

ENTRANCE SONG "Carry the light..."

Refrain:

p. 1

**Carry the light of the Lord our God into ev'ry earthly place.
High from the hill where the cross shines bright in glorious streams of grace.**

**Walk on in a grand procession, follow the cross at his lead.
On now, ev'ry tongue confess "Christ the Lord!" Is our creed. *Refrain***

**Walk forward your worship raising, singing the vict'ry he won.
On, then with this song of praise, brighter than light is God's Son. *Refrain***

GREETING

P: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **May he bless and keep you in his grace.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

p. 2

P: Everyone has sinned and is far from God's glorious presence. No one is righteous. All like sheep are gone astray, each one going his own way.

C: **Gracious God, we are enslaved to sin and powerless to save ourselves. By our lovelessness we sin against you day and night. In your boundless love, wash away our sin, that we may rise from death and live anew in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

CONFESSIONAL SONGS "There is no place..."

**There is no place to hide, Lord. Your eye can see inside, Lord.
There is no place to go, Lord. You search the dark and know, Lord.
Hide anywhere, Lord and you are there, Lord. There is no mask to wear.**

**Purge me clean with your hyssop, Lord, Wash me whiter than snow.
Hide your face from my sins, O Lord. Blot them out from your sight.
In your mercy and grace restored, my heart is new and right.
Purge me clean with your hyssop, Lord. Wash me whiter than snow.**

**Cast me not from your presence, Lord. Grant your Spirit to me.
In the joy of your saving word, set my spirit free.
Purge me clean with you hyssop, Lord.
Purge me clean with your hyssop, Lord.
Purge me clean with your hyssop, Lord.**

P: There is now no condemnation for anyone in Christ Jesus. Your sins are forgiven. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, They bless the Lord and sing to God their Savior.

SONG OF PRAISE *“Bless the Lord...”*

p. 3

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and let all within me bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul and remember all his benefits and his kindnesses.
He forgives all my sins, and heals all my hurts.
He redeems my life from the grave, and he crowns me with love and mercy.
Bless the Lord, my soul, O Bless the Lord, my soul, Bless the Lord!**

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambitions, that we may walk in your way of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

RESPONSE SONG *“Sow the seeds...”*

**Sow the seeds of life, dear Lord. Help us grow by your word.
Life will bloom with blessings when, we your voice have heard.
May our minds be made anew, by your word, breaking through.
Let the sun come shining in, ev'ry heart renew.**

SECOND LESSON James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to

yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

GOSPEL SONG *“Rise for the Gospel...”*

p. 5

Rise for the Gospel, the power of God. Praise him.

Christ the living word. Blessed is his name forever.

Blessed is the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!

THE GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED

P: The Gospel for this, the 18th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost, is taken from the gospel of Mark, the 9th chapter, beginning with the 30th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus’ teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world’s definition of greatness; prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 649 *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* Blue Hymnal

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain-In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. Refrain

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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.*

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations: heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, we pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... **Sarah, Jim, Barb, Vera, George, Sara, Karen, Sandi, Ayden** and for those whom we now lift up from our individual hearts... Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life 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 you all.

C: **And also with you.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Sing*

p. 7

Our Father in heav'n above, hear your children pray in love.

Holy, holy is your name, on our lips ever keep it the same.

Let your kingdom come, O Lord, as we share your living word.

Rule our hearts and lives with grace, till we see your heavenly face.

May your heavenly will be done, here on earth, let all be one.

Grant us strength to follow your ways, keep us in the faith all our days..

Give us Father our bread each day, as with thankful hearts we pray.

Help us share with all in need, and with joy your hungry feed.

Though we sin Father please forgive, let your grace then through us live.

Melt our hearts, let mercy increase, that your children may all live in peace.

Lead us through all the tempter's snares, fill our minds with heav'nly cares.

Save us all from evil and sin, till in heaven our crown we win.

Lord, your kingdom will ever stand, Lord, all power rest in your hand.

Glory, honor, praise without end, Father be to you. Amen.

OFFERTORY SONG *“Gather the gifts...”*

Cantor Sings Part L

L: Gather the gifts, manifold blessings of God in such bounty unfold.

Baskets of bread, time and gold given as signs our thanksgiving they hold.

C: Harvesting, gathering gifts from above.

Offering, joyfully ourselves with love.

L: Harvest the field, grape and grain, fruit of the earth born of sunshine and rain.

Vineyard and wine, wheat and plain - His loaf and cup are good gifts, they sustain.

C: Harvesting, gathering gifts from above.

Offering, joyfully ourselves with love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

p. 8

A: Let us pray

C: The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you supply our every need. You care for us from day to day, and open your hand in love to all. For all your gracious gifts, O God, we give you thanks and praise, now and always. Amen.

Place offerings in basket on baptismal font

OFFERINGS *Please remember offerings can be mailed to*

6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne IN 46835

or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.

THE COMMUNION

COVENANT SONG *“I greet you...”*

P: I greet you as your brother and God’s Servant.

C: We greet you, too, as children of the Lord.

P: Let us share together God’s new covenant.

C: United here in his word. Raise up your voices. Sing to our God.

Call out: one faith, one Lord, one body! God is our Victor, glorious and bright!

This is the feast of life. This is the feast of life.

CONSECRATION SONG *“On the night...”*

p. 9

P: On the night our Lord was betrayed, he took bread, and he broke it and gave thanks.

Then to his disciples he gave it as he said: Take, eat, this is my body given for you.

C: Do this in remembrance of me.

P: When the supper ended, he took the cup, and sharing it with all he gave thanks, saying:

This is the new covenant, my blood shed for you, for the forgiveness of sin.

C: Do this in remembrance of me.

INVITATION SONG *“Come to God’s table...”*

P: Come to God’s table and live.

C: This is God’s table. Now the feast is spread. From above, come, Living Bread, feed us your love.

Christ, our Light, come shine upon this bread and wine. Christ, our life come near. Fill us with your presence here. This is God’s table. Come to the banquet of life.

THE FEAST IS SHARED



***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.***

***NOTE: There is grape juice in the center ring of each
communion tray for those who so desire.***

SONG OF COMMUNION

Holy communion, in this high feast we share God's holy grace, heavens embrace, unending care.

We are Christ's body, one in his love divine. One in his bread, with him now wed, one in his wine.

Peace Lord is poured now, vessels of love brim full. Joy overflows, life in us grows, so bountiful.

Holy communion, in this high feast of love. See dawning here, God's glory near, the feast above.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

p. 10

P: May the presence of the Lord strengthen and keep us always in his life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

p. 11

P: To him who is able to keep you safe and bring you blameless into his glorious presence, to the only God, our Savior, be glory, power, majesty and might, now and forever.

C: Amen

BLESSING *sing*

P: God, bless the people of the world, God, bless them all.
God, bless your children. God, save us all!

**God, love the people of the world. God, love them all
God, love your children. God save us all.**

**God, help the people of the world. God, help them all.
God, help your children. God save us all.**

**God, bless the people of the world. God, love them all.
God, help your children. God save us all.**

DISMISSAL

p. 12

P: The supper is ended. Go now in peace. We wait for the promised feast to come.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DEPARTURE SONG *"Carry the light..."*

Refrain:

Carry the light of the Lord our God into ev'ry earthly place.

High from the hill where the cross shines bright in glorious streams of grace.

Walk through ev'ry valley boldly, bearing the lamp of the Lord.

Onward, with the saints of old, robed in the light of his word. *Refrain*

Walk into the world rejoicing, shining with light from above.

On, till ev'ry heart and voice, join in the song of his love.

1984 Frank D. Janzow

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
Assisting Minister	Amber Logan
Guitarist	Taylor Norberg
Cantor	Rachael Pickett
Lector/Communion Assistant 8:00	Richard and Nancy Lee
Lector 10:15	Nina Haag
Holy Communion Assistant 10:15	Jack Swanson
Alter Guild	Amanda Pickett
Greeters 10:15	Steve and Nina Haag



Jim Goeglein - September 25th!
 Minda Hartman - September 25th!
 Kristen Davis - September 25th!
 Chris Robinson - September 28th!
 Kim Robinson - September 28th!

August/September Financial Report

August	Deposits	Bills Paid	Balance
8/4/2024	3,736.90	1,335.47	2,401.43
8/11/2024	3,314.51	4,239.99	(925.48)
8/18/2024	1,765.71	1,107.50	658.21
8/25/2024	2,260.53	3,959.07	(1,698.54)
August Totals	11,077.65	10,642.03	435.62
September			
9/1/2024	2,034.51	522.32	1,512.19
9/8/2024	2,765.51	5,776.51	(3,011.00)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers today are in memory of Jane Dawkins by the Pickett family.
(*Look at the November flower list, many Sundays available*)

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH - collecting items for Associated Churches Food Bank.
Most needed items are:

1. Dry powdered milk
2. Canned meats, chicken, beef and tuna
3. Crackers
4. Peanut Butter and jelly
5. Bagged noodles
6. Sauces to go with the noodles to make a meal.

Ongoing Military Support - Sending Care Packages - Granola Bars, Jerky, Gum, Mints, Life Savers, Power Bars, Chap stick, individual drink mixes, individual servings of coffee, and Emergen-C.

Bible Study Wednesday Evenings - 6:00 light dinner, 6:30 Bible Study. Each week is independent, you may get some reading for the next week. Sign up so we know how many will be attending to prepare handouts and food.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING REMINDER! *Sign Up*

Sunday - September 29th - 8:45 am Breakfast and Meeting

Get the updates on God's Work Our Hands - number assembled

Get an update on the Lutheran Foundation Matching Grant and Drive-way/Parking lot project.

Epiphany's Calendar of Events

TODAY 9/22	18th Sunday of Pentecost - Janzow Service 8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship 8:45 am Council Meeting <i>12:00-3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i> 12:30 - 5:00 pm Private Event
MONDAY	8:00-3:00 NHC 7:00 pm Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Bible Study
THURSDAY	8:00-3:00 NHC
SATURDAY	<i>11:00 Zo Prayer Meeting</i> <i>6:00 -8:00 pm Zo Baptist Worship</i>
SUNDAY 9/29	19th Sunday of Pentecost - St. Michael's and all Angels 8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship 8:45am Congregational Meeting and Breakfast <i>12:00-3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>