

*Blessed  
are  
Those*



*who have not  
seen and yet have believed.*

*John 20:29*

**Epiphany Lutheran Church**

6606 Maplecrest Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
(260) 485-5122  
[www.epiphanyfw.com](http://www.epiphanyfw.com)

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**April 12, 2026 – 8:00 & 10:15 am**  
*Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am*

*Richard L. Hartman - Pastor*

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Lutheran Book of Worship**  
Setting Two (*green hymnal*)

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Book of Acts of the Apostles and the First Letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

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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**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

L: 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**

L: 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 our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: 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 neighbors 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**

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

**OPENING HYMN 135** *"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"* Green Hymnal

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The strife is o'er the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won!**

**Now be the song of praise begun, Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed.**

**Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The three sad days have quickly sped,**

**He rises glorious from the dead.**

**All glory to our risen hear! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**He broke the age-bound chains of hell;**

**The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.**

**Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,**

**From death's sting free your servants too,**

**That we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: 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: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy**

A: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **SALUTATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(unison)*

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

#### ***About the Prayer of the Day***

*The prayer of the day is based on one for the second Sunday of Easter in the 1985 Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada. Both we who believe and we who doubt pray for "the fullness of Christ's blessing."*

### **FIRST LESSON Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

*After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be

shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

**PSALM 16** *spoken with assistant*

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>**I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”**

<sup>3</sup>As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>**Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup>**I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

<sup>10</sup>**For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. This letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ’s resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a

salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel on this the second Sunday in the season of Easter is according to John, the 20th chapter, beginning with the 19th verse.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL John 20:19-31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Gospel of the Lord  
C: Praise to you, O Christ

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN  
SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY 675** *"We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight"* Blue Book  
We walk by faith and not by sight, with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke. "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod.  
But in you promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then O Lord our unbelief and may our faith abound,  
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light.  
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

**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**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, we pray especially for all of these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... and for all of those whom we now name from our hearts...**Pat, Allen, George, Vicki, Karen** Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Giver of joy, let this gathering of Epiphany Lutheran Church be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **AMEN**

## **PEACE**

P: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: and also with you**

*You are invited to greet one another with the "Peace of the Lord" or similar words.*



**OFFERINGS can be mailed, dropped off at church  
or sent through our website at [www.epiphanyfw.com](http://www.epiphanyfw.com).  
If you are worshipping in person please  
*place offering in basket on baptismal font.***

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Merciful God,

**C: it would have been enough for you to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by your promise, you also give us yourself. Use what we have gathered here in feeding the hungry world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **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.

### **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.

In the name of the Father ✠ and the Son and the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN 675** *"We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight"* Blue Hymnal

**We walk by faith and not by sight, with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke. "My peace be with you here."**

**We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod.  
But in you promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"**


**Help then O Lord our unbelief and may our faith abound,  
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.**

**That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light.  
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**Bill and Cathy Williams  
April 11th - 39 years!**

**Vicki Auman - April 6th!**

**James Minick - April 9th!**

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

*Thank you for sharing your time and talents!*

**Leasder**  
**Pianist**  
**Assistant**  
**Lector/Communion Assistant 8:00**  
**Lector 10:15**  
**Communion Assistant 10:15**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Technical Support**

Steve Haag  
 Alicia Davis  
 Jim Davis  
 Cheryl Ralston  
 Nina Haag  
 Mike Rumfield  
 Haag's  
 Davis Family

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**April Outreach** - Just Neighbors, new pillows, twin sheet sets, diapers size newborn - 6, pull ups boys and girls, grocery gift cards, laundry baskets, household cleaners, dish soap, broom and dust pan, toilet bowl brush, household mop, paper towels, toilet paper..

**April Outreach** - Collecting for the Health kits and Layette. Items needed now: Ivory or Dial soap 4 oz. if possible, short sleeved shirts, Bath towels, hand towels, baby blankets (no Fleece), receiving blankets cloth diapers or money towards purchasing diapers, sweaters or jackets not fleece. (sizes 6mo to 24month/2T)

**Layette items/watch garage sales** - baby clothes 6 months to 2T  
Shirts long and short sleeved, pants, socks, sleepers no feet, gowns, hats, receiving blankets, mild bar soap and baby blankets.

**Quilt items/watch garage sales** - for blankets, sheets-full or larger, mattress pads that we can use as middles and backs.

**ALTER FLOWERS** - today celebrating Joe and Vickie Malott's Anniversary on April 2nd - 49 years! April 26th and 27th. Opening for flowers April 19th and 26th!  
*May 17th and 31st also open.*

**Military Outreach** - Current items needed – Slim Jim's, Beef Jerky (1.25 oz.) Gum, mints, chewy granola bars, power bars, drink mixes, individual servings of coffee, flavored drinks, Emergen-C

## CALENDAR

<b>SUNDAY 4-12</b>	8:00am & 10:15am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>No Bible Study this week</b>	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM Hillsboro in Library</b>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	11:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm - 8:00 pm	Zo Baptist prayer meeting/undercroft Zo Baptist Worship
<b>SUNDAY 4-19</b>	8:00am & 10:15am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

<b>March</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Bills Paid</b>	<b>Balance</b>
3/1/2026	3,214.47	2,626.94	587.53
3/8/2026	2,854.47	4,496.68	(1,642.21)
3/15/2026	4,319.60	1,311.48	3,008.12
3/22/2026	2,217.43	3,452.26	(1,234.83)
3/29/2029	2,139.50	837.94	1,301.56
<b>March Totals</b>	<b>14,745.47</b>	<b>12,725.30</b>	<b>2,020.17</b>