



**Epiphany Lutheran Church**

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

**5th Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024 – 8:00 & 10:15 am  
Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am  
Monday Night Worship: 7:00 pm  
Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

## Lutheran Book of Worship

Setting Two (*green hymnal*)

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

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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

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Open our lips, and our mouth shall declare your praise.

Open our hearts, and we will be given new life.

Open our souls, and our light will shine before others to give You glory.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another so that we may be forgiven and cleansed 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, O God, and one another, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have not done. Your Son taught us to "love our neighbor as ourselves," and we have only been concerned about ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, and bring us to new life in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his boundless mercy, has willingly sacrificed his Son for us, and for his sake forgives us all of 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 674" Alleluia! Christ is Risen"** Blue Hymnal

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!**

**Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain - Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes.**

**Breaking our bread, giving us glory. Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain**

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches. Life in the spirit the fruit of the tree.  
Heaven to earth , Christ to the people. Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain**

Refrain - Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**Weeping be gone, sorrow be silent. Death put asunder and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing “O grave be open” Clothe us in wonder adorn us in light. Refrain**

**City of God, Easter forever. Golden Jerusalem Jesus the Lamb.  
River of life, saints and archangels. Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain**

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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: 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**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

**O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So

Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **PSALM 22:25-31 Assistant/Congregation**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM** *"There is Something About That Name"*

#### **SECOND LESSON 1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

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

## **GOSPEL John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

### **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**HYMN OF THE DAY 143** *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"* Green Hymnal

**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds.**

**"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"**

**Sing choirs of angels, loud and clear!**

**Repeat their song of glory here, "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings.**

**"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"**

**Now still he comes to give us life, and by his presence stills all strife.**

**"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Oh, fill us Lord with dauntless love, set heart and will on things above.**

**That we conquer through your triumph.**

**Grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say.**

**"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing.**

**"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"**

**Be to the Father and our Lord, to the Spirit blest most holy God,**

**All the glory never ending!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministries, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, we pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church...*Sarah, Jim Vera, Don, Barb, Sandi, George, Sara, Karen, Richard, Sue* and for those whom we now name from our heart... God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of Epiphany Lutheran Church, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 good to give him thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed right and salutary ... We praise your name and join their unending hymn: C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,*

**Lord God of pow'r and might.**

**Heav'n 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.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace

**C: Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. We pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 97** *"Christ the Life of All the Living"* Green Hymnal  
Christ, the life of all the living, Christ the death of death our foe.  
Christ yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe.  
Through your suffering, death and merit, life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, Dearest Jesus unto you.

You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently.  
Even death by crucifixion fully to atone for me.  
For you chose to be tormented, that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, Dearest Jesus unto you.

Then for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows, deep and sore.  
For the anguish in the garden, I will thank you ever more.  
Thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying.  
For that last triumphant cry, Praise you ever more on high.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Thank you for sharing your time and talents!*

**Pastor**  
**Organist/Pianist**  
**Assistant**  
**Lector/Communion Assistant 8:00**  
**Lector 10:15**  
**Communion Assistant 10:15**

Richard Hartman  
Amanda Pickett  
Dia Herb  
Kim Robinson  
Alicia Davis  
Jack Swanson



Cheryl Ralston - April 29th!

Jim & Ellen Goeglein  
May 1st - 48 years!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**April Outreach** - Collecting for the Health kits and Layette. Items needed now:  
Bath towels, hand towels, baby blankets (no Fleece), receiving blankets, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers.

**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, mattress pads that we can use as middles and backs.

**Ushers/Greeters** - At the last Congregational meeting we talked about bringing back this function for Epiphany. I have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board . We did have some in place for Palm Sunday and Easter.

**ALTER FLOWERS** There are lots of Sunday's available for flowers  
*June 30th, July 14th, August 18th, September 1st, 22nd and 29th, November 3rd, 10th and 24th!*

**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 4-28</b>	8:00am & 10:15am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 pm	Worship
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:00 - 12:00	Quilting
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10:00- 12:00 11:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm - 8:00 pm	Quilting <i>Zo Baptist prayer meeting/undercroft</i> <i>Zo Baptist Worship</i>
<b>SUNDAY 5-5</b>	8:00am & 10:15am 8:45 am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship Council Meeting <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>