



Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023 – 8:00 & 10:15 am
Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am
Grief Support Group Mondays: 7:00 pm
Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Lutheran Book of Worship

Setting Two (*green hymnal*)

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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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 158 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus."

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, His the scepter his the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a might flood.

Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us, Faith believes nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'ver.

Shall our hearts forget his promise, I am with you evermore.

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer hear our plea.
Here on songs of all the sinless. Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own.
Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered , robed in flesh our great high priest.
Here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, His the scepter his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a might flood.
Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.**

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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of the ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he

had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 (*sing responsively with Assistant*)

Let God rise up, let his ene / mies be scattered;

let those who hate him flee / before him.

**²As smoke is driven away, so drive / them away;
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish / before God.**

³But let the righ / teous be joyful;

let them exult before God; let them be jubi / lant with joy.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises / to his name;

**lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD— be
Exul / tant before him.**

**⁵Father of orphans and protec / tor of widows
is God in his holy / habitation.**

⁶God gives the desolate a home / to live in;

**he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in / a parched
land.**

**⁷O God, when you went out / before your people,
when you marched through the wilder / ness, Selah**

**⁸the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the pre / sence of God,
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the / God of Israel.**

**⁹Rain in abundance, O God, you showe / red abroad;
you restored your heritage when / it languished;**

**¹⁰your flock found a dwel / ling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided / for the needy.**

**³²Sing to God, O kingdoms / of the earth;
sing praises to the / Lord, Selah**

**³³O rider in the heavens, the / ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his / mighty voice.**

**³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is / over Israel;
and whose power is / in the skies.**

**³⁵Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the / God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people. / Blessed be God!**

SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust that God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the

name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 657 "Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"
(new red hymnal – Tune At the Lamb's High Feast)

**Rise, O Sun of righteousness, with your might creation.
Shine upon your church today, Showing all your gentle way.
Have mercy Lord.**

**Rouse our hearts from slumber deep, May your word within us leap.
Give us voices to proclaim, Praises to your holy name.
Have mercy Lord.**

**Gather in your scattered flock, Give us water from the rock.
Bless the unity we share, In our shepherd's loving care.
Have mercy Lord.**

**Burst the bars of stubborn pride, Make the heav'nly pathway wide.
Raise us up from sin and death, With your Spirit's living breath.
Have mercy Lord.**

**Honor, praise, and glory be, To the holy Trinity.
May your gracious will be done, Make us one as you are one.
Have mercy Lord.**

QUARTERLY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (*P: Pastor, B: Baptized*)

*Anyone who celebrates their Baptismal Birthday in the months of
July, August, and September, or anyone wanting
to affirm their baptism are invited to gather*

P: Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to affirm and remember the covenant God made with you at your Baptism. We rejoice that you now intend to make public profession of the faith into which you were baptized. Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

B: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

B: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

B: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A moment of silence.*

We pray for the church. Keep us steadfast in your word. Shape us according to your will. Heal our divisions. Protect us from discord. Unite us in your love. Empower us for mission. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the earth. For forests and vineyards, marshes and springs. For grasslands and pastures, farmlands, and orchards. Protect your creation from damage by earthquake, flood, wind, drought, fire, or hail. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the nations. For those who govern and all who hold authority. For those who have been displaced by warfare, economic hardship, or disaster. Bring freedom, justice, and stability to areas of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For those in need. For those who are anxious. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who are hungry or homeless. For those who grieve and all who are sick. We especially remember these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church Family... *Vera, Don, Sarah, Jim, Barb, David, Joe, Sara, George, Sandi, Richard, Dawn, Cathy* and for those whom we now lift up from our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For this congregation. Deepen our lives of prayer. Open us to the guiding of your Spirit. Fill us with compassion. Nourish us at your holy table. Strengthen us in service to our community. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

With thanksgiving we remember those who have died, especially our loved ones and those who have given their lives in service. Inspire us by their example and bring us to your eternal home. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

B: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: 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.

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 right 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 *(share bread and wine or juice at home)*



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: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 439 *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Ev'ry thing to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you. You will find a solace there.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY Outreach - soap for the health kids and layettes.

Health Kit items throughout the summer - Bath towels, tooth brushes, bar soaps, nail clippers, combs.

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.

Military Outreach - continues all year, place items in the red bin for shipping to military overseas. See the wonderful letters above the bin where we have directly touched military receiving our boxes.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 5-21	8:00am & 10:15am 8:45 am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship <i>Affirmation of Faith</i> Breakfast and Annual Congregational Meeting <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Grief Support Group
SATURDAY	11:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm - 8:00 pm	Zo Baptist prayer meeting/undercroft Zo Baptist Worship
SUNDAY 5-28	8:00am & 10:15am 12:00- 3:30pm	Worship <i>Pentecost - Blessing of Quilts</i> <i>Wear Flame Colors!</i> <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Pastor

Assistant

Lector/Communion Assistant 8:00

Lector 10:15

Communion Assistant 10:15

Richard Hartman

Jim Davis

Cheryl Ralston

Cathy Rumfield

Nina Haag



Dave York - May 25th!

Hank & Charlene Schroeder

May 23rd - 64 years!