



Epiphany Lutheran Church

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

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am
Lenten Supper 6:00pm - Vespers 6:30 pm
Pastor - Richard L. Hartman

The Service of Holy Communion

Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting II (green hymnal)

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

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!

LENTEN CONFESSION (P: Pastor, C: Congregation)

P: Trusting in the promises made during our baptism we are gathered together in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Let us open our hearts and our minds to confess the sins we have committed, both known and unknown, so that healing can begin in our relationship with God.

Gracious God,

C: you know sins that we have committed against you, your creation, and one another; have mercy on us. We know that we are not worthy of your forgiveness, nor do we deserve it. We do, however, pray that you would forgive us of our sins and reconcile us with one another, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: God knows what is in our hearts and yet loves us still. Through the waters of our baptism God assures us that we are claimed as one of His children. May we live each day as a claimed child of God; in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN 780 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" (Blue Hymnal)

What a fellowship, what joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Refrain: **Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms,
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain**

APOSTOLIC 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: 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 Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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 Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 *Spoken with Assistant*

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

²**will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰**no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**

¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴**Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.**

¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

¹⁶**With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

SECOND LESSON Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

P: The Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent is taken from the gospel of Luke the fourth chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called, “The Son of God.”

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 99 “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” (Green Hymnal)

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast.

Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan and you won, your faithfulness endured.

Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God’s eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above.

So, teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God’s love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days.

That when the final easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise.

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, those who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially...**Karen, Sandi, Barb, George, Sara, Steve, Vicki, Ayden** and for all those whom we now name from our hearts. God, in your mercy, **RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,
RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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."

OFFERINGS



Offerings can be mailed, dropped off at church
6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne, IN 46835
or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.
Place offerings in basket on baptism font.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Received them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, 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, 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.**

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: 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 660 *"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"* (BLUE HYMNAL)

I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me.

All along my pilgrim journey. Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials Lord walk with me. In my trials Lord walk with me.

When my heart is almost breaking. Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble Lord walk with me, When I'm in trouble Lord walk with me.

When my head is bowed in sorrow. Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

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
Pianist		Alicia Davis
Assistant Minister		Amber Logan
Lector/Communion Assistant	8:00	Cheryl Ralston
Lector	10:15	Rebecca Norberg
Communion Assistant	10:15	Jack Swanson
Technical Support		Kristen Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fishes & Loaves Collection

Our annual collection of canned tuna, salmon, And mackerel, along with crackers, Tuna Helper, chicken, stews, and beef has begun, and continues through Easter Sunday. Items may be placed On the round tables or in bin in hallway. They are also asking for any other canned goods or boxed items for the food bank.



Lenten Supper - Church Council on March 12th will have "Fixins" for Deli sandwiches, sides and dessert. Please sign up.

March 19th - Choir will serve Taco Night. All the things to make tacos, nachos, taco salad and dessert.

Sign up sheets - Please check them ALL out:

Maundy Thursday - Communion Assistant and Altar Guild clean up.

Palm Sunday Readers - 6 for 8:00 and 2 for 10:15 service

Easter Egg Hunt Helpers April 19th, kids to hunt, fill for eggs!

Set up and take down crosses April 18th and 20th.

Easter flower orders due today! \$14.00 each
Plants you can take home and plant or donate to church to plant.

Epiphany's Calendar of Events

TODAY 3-9	First Sunday in Lent 8:00 & 10:15 am Worship 8:45 am Council Meeting <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>
MONDAY	8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm Lenten Supper - provided by Council 6:30 pm Lenten vespers 7:15 pm Choir Practice
THURSDAY	8:00 am - 3:00 pm NHC
SATURDAY	<i>11:00-12:00 Zo prayer meeting</i> <i>6:00 - 8:00 pm Zo Worship</i>
SUNDAY 3-16	Second Sunday in Lent 8:00 and 10:15 am Worship <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>



Jim Davis - March 4th!

Corey Davis - March 4th!



Shane & Jessica Hopkins
April 11th - 7 years!

Bill & Cathy Williams
April 11th - 38 years!

Lillian & John Anderson
April 16th - 43 years!