



all Are

Lent

Welcome

We hope you feel welcomed by our community, inspired by the message of Jesus today and excited to live that out in the coming week



# Welcome To Worship



## WORSHIP

Worship is a big deal to us. Something happens in us and through us when we gather. Jesus said it this way: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” When we gather together for worship we can experience the presence of God in a way that we can’t on our own. It isn’t just about learning and it certainly isn’t about getting on God’s good side. Worship is a corporate way to personally experience (be in relationship with) God and others. Welcome!

## GIVE

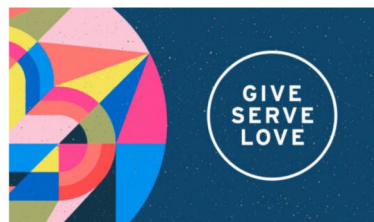
Want an easy way to give digitally? Scan the QR code below and head to the give page of our website for all the info!



## CONNECT

The best way to stay connected to Epiphany is to sign up to receive our twice per week emails we call “Connect”. On Tuesday and Friday we send out the latest information about our ministries, worship, events and more.

You can see our most recent emails by scanning this QR Code and following the link. If you wish, you can even sign up to receive Connect for yourself! The sign up form is on the same page. Open your phone's camera and scan the code below to stay connected!



## NEW

If you are new to Epiphany we want to tell you a little about our us. We hope to be a church that focuses on the love of Jesus, invites you to follow Jesus in the way you live and seeks to spread that invitation to all people, including those in the LGBTQIA+ community, all family types, ethnicities, ages and social classes. We want to follow Jesus and passionately proclaim that his love is for all. If you wish to know more about our welcome and inclusion statement, visit us [here](#).



We would love to hear a little bit about you. Scan the QR code below for an easy way to let us know what you think or ask us a question.



# First Sunday in Lent

## February 22, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

ELW #776

*What God Ordains Is Good Indeed*

- 1 What God or - dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
- 2 What God or - dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
- 3 What God or - dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
- 4 What God or - dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.  
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.  
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."  
 on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -  
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing  
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -  
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.  
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.  
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.  
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682

Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

## GREETING

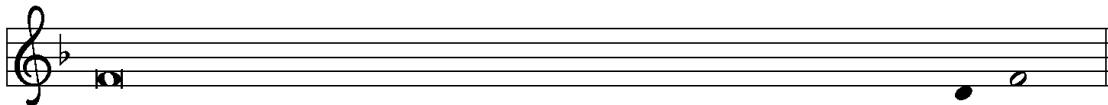
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion  
 of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

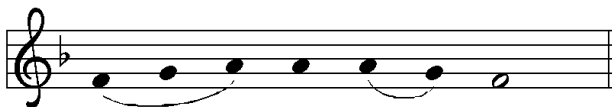
## KYRIE



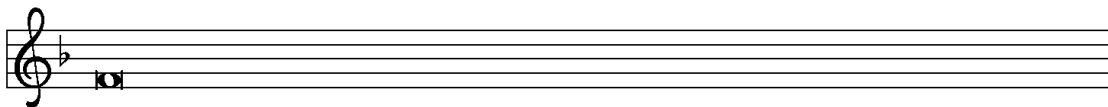
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



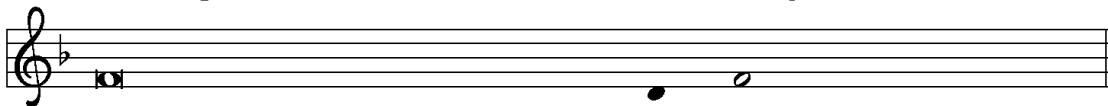
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



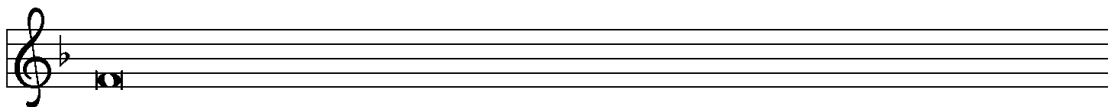
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



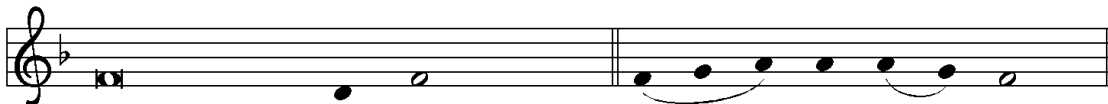
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



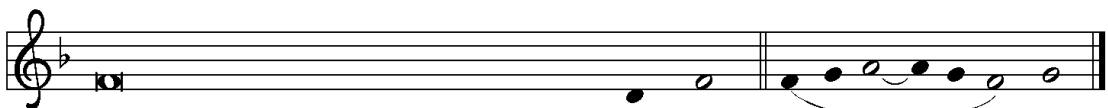
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please sit*

**READING** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

**A** A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

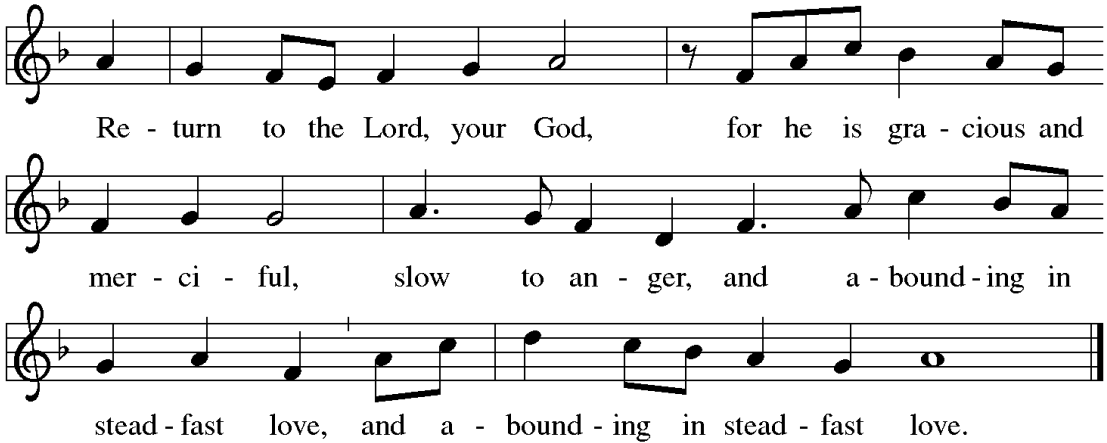
<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

P The Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Please sit***SERMON**

Pastoral Intern Tony Maggio

*Please stand***HYMN OF THE DAY****ELW #769*****If You But Trust in God to Guide You***

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
- 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
- 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite

Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark

Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\*  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 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

**A** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray  
 for the world and its needs.

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and  
 salvation.

**C** **Amen.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

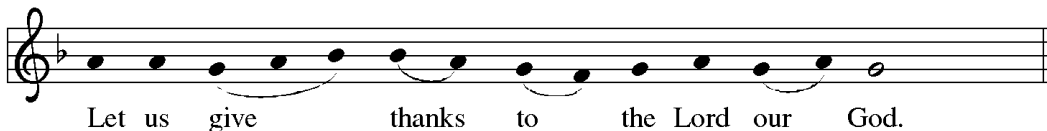
**C** **And also with you.**

*Please Sit*

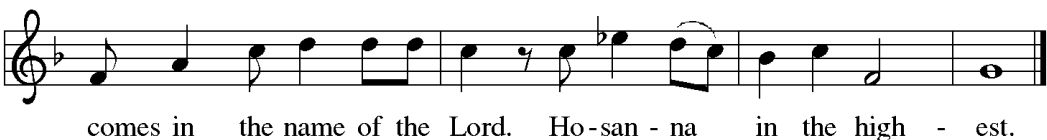
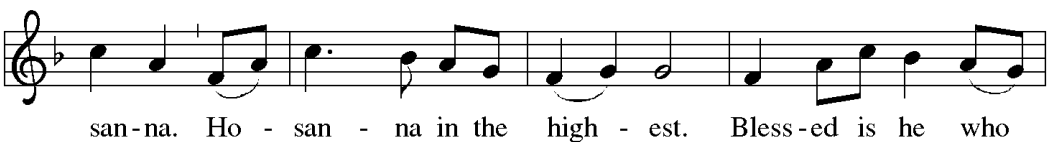
## SPECIAL MUSIC

*I Lift Up Mine Eyes --Pote*

Adult Choir

*Please stand***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



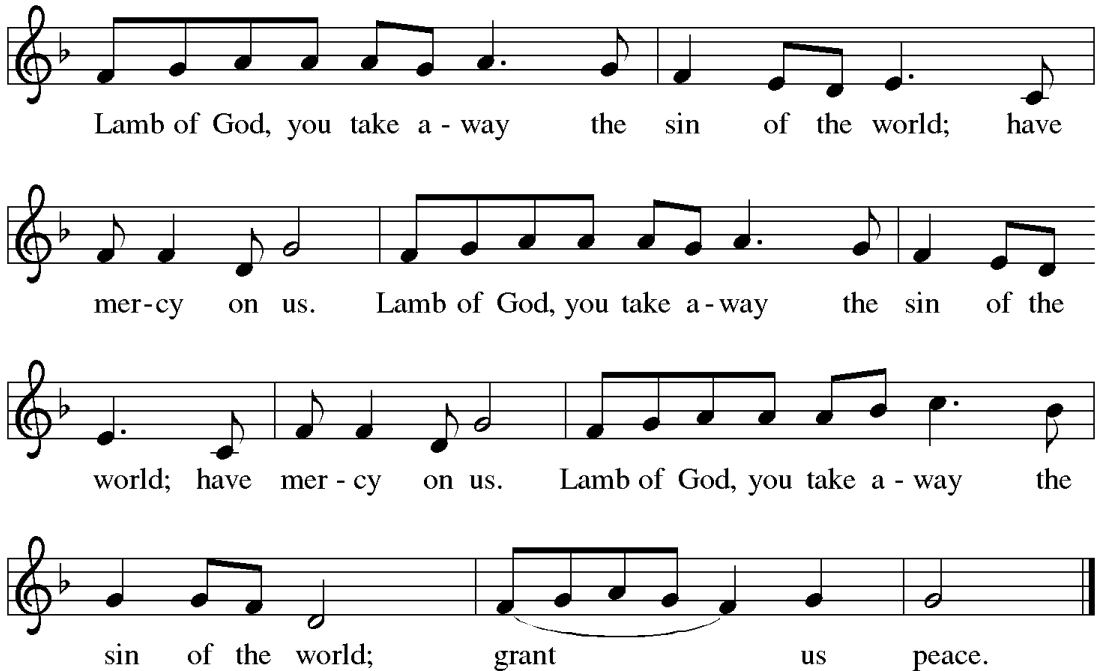
## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

*Please sit*

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

### COMMUNION

All are welcome to share in communion this morning! Gluten-free wafers are available if needed. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like to have communion brought to you in the pew, please don't hesitate to raise your hand to catch the traveling server's attention and also let the usher know. If you have questions about communion, contact Pastor Brad at: [pastorbrad@epiphany-lutheran.com](mailto:pastorbrad@epiphany-lutheran.com).

## COMMUNION HYMN

## ELW #335

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

*Please stand*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of the bread and wine  
that we have shared, strengthen us and unite us in bonds of love and peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C** **Amen**

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE WEEK**

## CLOSING HYMN

ELW #781

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Ministers

ALL THE MEMBERS OF EPIPHANY

Pastor

Brad Gee

Pastoral Intern

Tony Maggio

Director of Education & Technology

Jeff Mitchell

Director of Music

Terry McCandless

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Ali Adams

Office Administrator

Dori Holbrook

Bookkeeper

Ken Schafer

268 Hill Road North      Pickerington, OH 43147

Phone: 614-837-2826      Fax: 614-837-7382

Email: [Epiphany@Epiphany-Lutheran.com](mailto:Epiphany@Epiphany-Lutheran.com)  
[www.epiphany-lutheran.com](http://www.epiphany-lutheran.com)

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000370 . CCLI #1641723; OneLicense.net A-709410; CVLI 503951417.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.