



# *All Are*

*Advent at Epiphany*

# *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

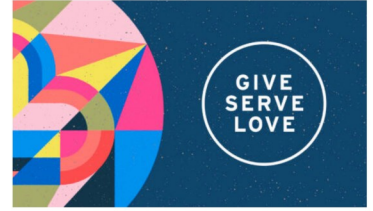
Want an easy way to give digitally? Scan the QR code below and head to the give page of our website for all the info!



## 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.



# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 14, 2025 ~ 9:00 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

P O God, you search us out and know us  
and all that we are is open to you.  
We confess that we have sinned:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P When we scoff at those who await your coming  
and live as though you were never here:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P When we long for you to come and change the world  
and yet we are unwilling to change our own hearts:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P When we do not make straight paths for justice  
nor offer a welcome when you come as a stranger:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P When we dismiss prophets and angels  
and refuse to nourish the faith that is within us:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P When we reduce our preparation for your coming  
to reckless expenses and trivialities:

C **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

P We turn to you,  
God of infinite mercy.  
We wait patiently  
For the one who forgives all;  
Jesus our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

ELW #264 vs.1-3  
*Prepare the Royal Highway*

- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #244 vs. 4

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

## **LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

### **Lighting of the candles of hope, love, and joy**

- R1 A voice is crying out in the wilderness: prepare the way for the Lord.  
R2 Make a straight path through the desert, a highway for our God.
- R1 Lift up every valley, bring down every mountain and hill.  
R2 Make the uneven ground level, and the rough terrain a smooth valley plain.
- R1 When we pass through the water, God will be with us.  
R2 When we go through rivers, they won't wash us away.
- R1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.  
R2 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed. All people together will see it.
- R1 We light the candles of hope, love and joy

(The candles are lit.)

- R1 We rejoice because the Lord's messenger is coming. He calls us into the water as a sign that we are changing our hearts and lives. On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy. We hear the words of John the Baptist, whom God sent to prepare the way, and we know that our Savior is near. The sun of righteousness is rising. We enter the baptismal waters with gladness, knowing that our sins are washed away. We turn to Christ with anticipation and delight. We seek to be a people prepared for the Lord.

*Please sit*

**READING** Psalm 126

A A reading from the Psalms.

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

**GOSPEL READINGS**      Matthew 18:2-5 and Luke 2:10-11

**P**      The Gospel according to Matthew and Luke.

**C**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**P**      The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Please sit***SERMON**

Pastor Brad Gee



## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #269 vs. 1-3  
*Once in Royal David's City*

- 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

**ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Please join me in the Advent Affirmation of Faith

C **We believe in God,  
creator and lover of all of creation.**

**We believe in Jesus,  
God coming to us in the fragile promise  
of a baby yet unborn who will emerge as our herald of hope.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who implants seeds of faith, brings us to birth  
as the body of Christ, and empowers us with the gift of God's love.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God,  
that draws near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated  
when God's desire for all of creation is fulfilled.**

**For the coming of that day  
we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

**PRAYERS**

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting  
your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting  
in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C **Amen.**

**PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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 our thanks and praise.

**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*

## JESUS, LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)  
 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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 #248  
*People, Look East*

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

*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 our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- C** **Amen**

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE WEEK**

**LITTLE LIGHTS CHOIR**

Brenna Holmes, director

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



# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministers

ALL THE MEMBERS OF EPIPHANY

Lead 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 © 2025 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.