

The Binding of Isaac

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Cross Day

09/14/2025

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

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

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all 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**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#831 "The God of Abraham Praise"](#)

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Loving and merciful God, you hear the prayers of those who cry to you, and shine the light of your presence on those who live in the shadow of death. May we rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 13

L ¹How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

C ²**How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

L ³Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God;
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

C ⁴**lest my enemy say, "I have defeated you,"
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**

L ⁵But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

C ⁶**I will sing to the Lord,
who has dealt with me richly.**

GENESIS 22:1-14

L A reading from Genesis: ¹God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and

go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²[The angel] said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY [ELW#769 "If You but Trust in God to Guide You"](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Pastor Greg's Old Testament "Context-O-Meter"

**WE ARE
HERE**

Epoch	Books
Creation and Early Humanity	Genesis (1–11)
The Patriarchs and the Covenant	Genesis (12–50)
Egypt, Exodus, and the Wilderness	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Conquest and Settlement	Joshua, Judges (early parts), and Ruth
Judges	Judges, 1 Samuel (early chapters)
United Kingdom	1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings (1–11), 1 and 2 Chronicles (1–9)
Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah	1 Kings (12–22), 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles (10–36), various prophets (Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, etc.)
Exile of Israel, Exile of Judah	2 Kings (end), 2 Chronicles (end), Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations, Obadiah
Return from Exile and Restoration	Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Please stand, as you are able.

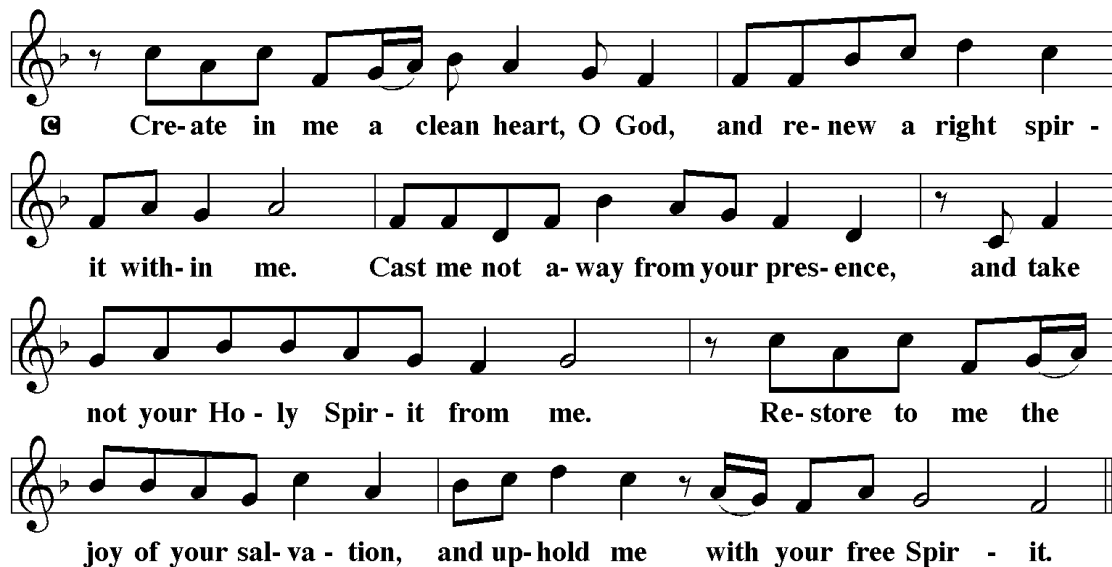
- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

L Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For an end to war and conflict, especially in Gaza, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Ukraine*
- *For peaceful resolution following protests in Kathmandu, Nepal*
- *For all victims of gun violence, especially in Orem, Utah and Evergreen, Colorado*
- *For victims of racism, racial profiling, and race-based violence*
- *For farmers and for all individuals and businesses navigating financial insecurity*

- *For colleges, universities, and all educational institutions*
- *For first responders, emergency personnel, and all who risk their lives in service of others*

L Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

L We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#660 "Lift High the Cross"](#)

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to

Robert Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
 9122 Sybert Drive
 Columbia Hills
 Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, September 17, Council Meeting, 7 pm
- Saturday, September 20, 3pm to 6pm - Crew 851 Farewell Party
- Sunday, September 21 during 9:30 am service - recognition and thanksgiving for the partnership between Venture Crew 851 and Epiphany Lutheran.
- Sunday, September 21 after 9:30 am service - Fall Picnic

Upcoming Worship

Date	Theme	Text	Leader(s)
Sept 14	Binding of Isaac	Genesis 22.1-14	Julie and Dave
Sept 21	Jacob' Dream	Genesis 28.10-19a	Ron
Sept 28	God's Name is Revealed	Exodus 3.1-15	Monica
Oct 5	God Provides Manna	Exodus 16.2-15	Heidi and Bob
Oct 12	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3.1-20	Julie and Dave

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