

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

08/16/2026

at Epiphany Lutheran Church

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

EpiphanyLutheranColumbia.org

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN [ELW#526 – “God Is Here!”](#)

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

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE [ELW#434 – “Jesus Shall Reign”](#)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. God of all peoples,

C **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 67

L ¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

C ²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

L ³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C ⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

L ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C ⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

L ⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

L The holy gospel according to Matthew.

L ¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY [ELW#883 – “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”](#)

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

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

L With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

L For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats (especially). Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

L For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Rhina Chroniger, Lincoln Dippel, the Elshafei

family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Christine Kourkoules, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Venezuela...*
- *For recovery and healing after natural disasters, especially the earthquake in Colombia, Typhoon Dolphin in China, extreme heat and wildfires around the globe, and severe storms in the Midwest and Northeast...*
- *For rescues and victims of ferry accidents in Bali and Zimbabwe...*
- *For the mental health of all, especially young people experiencing social pressures, cyberbullying and harassment on social media platforms...*
- *For elections for lawmakers returning to Congress...*
- *For all who advocate for the interests of those most vulnerable...*
- *For students, teachers, and staff preparing for the new school year...*

L For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

P Let us pray. 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. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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 gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C Thanks be to God.

After all have communed, the following is sung:

Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C 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#494 – “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”](#)

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
C Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday, September 13, after worship** – Church picnic

SUMMER READINGS PLAN

Dated	Text	Leader
Aug 16	John 21:15-19	Ron
Aug 23	John 21:20-25	Pastor Greg

*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

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