

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT — *Oculi*

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

*Oculi*—My eyes are ever toward the Lord. Faith keeps its eyes on Jesus, for He is our salvation. Today we hear how our Lord holds sway over the people of the nations of the earth, and even the kingdom of the devil. This divine power of Jesus to save is shown to us in our readings today.

**To our guests and visitors:** Welcome to Epiphany! We pray that your time with us today will be a blessing to you as you hear the Good News of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest book on the wall in the entrance area of the church and join us for coffee after church in the board room.

***We're celebrating the Lord's Supper today!*** The Lord's Supper is a great blessing to those who are prepared and worthy to receive it. (To help you prepare, see page 329 in the hymnal).

A person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in Jesus' words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (referring to the body & blood of Christ in the bread & wine). For as the Bible says, "anyone [who] eats and drinks without recognizing the body [and blood] of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself". Anyone not yet instructed, or in doubt, or who hold a different confession than that of this congregation and Lutheran Church-Canada, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to *first speak with the pastor* before the service.

We follow **DIVINE SERVICE, *Setting One***, p.151.

*This bulletin contains all the options not contained in the service on p.151.*

*We suggest you use it as a bookmark in your Service Book.*

*During Lent we "bury" the "Alleluia" to mark the somber mood of this penitential season. This means we omit the Gloria in Excelsis, use the Lenten Verse "Return to the Lord" before the Gospel, and the "Nunc Dimittis" after the Distribution.*

### Hymn 594

*"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

### Introit

*Ps. 25:1-2a, 7-8, 11; antiphon: Ps. 25:6, 2b, 22*

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*

for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

To you, | O LORD,\*

I lift | up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;\*

let not my enemies exult | over me.

The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;\*

bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

Consider my affliction and my | trouble,\*

and forgive | all my sins.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!\*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*

for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

### Collect

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 26:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>"Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup>It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup>You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup>and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup>then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.'"

<sup>7</sup>The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

### Psalms 136

### Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 5:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

**Lenten Verse:** *“Return to the Lord,”* p. 157

### Gospel Reading

*Luke 11:14-28*

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

<sup>24</sup>“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

<sup>27</sup>As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” <sup>28</sup>But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

**Hymn of the Day: 541**

*“Away from Us! The Demon Cried”*

**Sermon**

*“Filling Up a House”*

**Distribution Hymns: 427** *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* **550** *“Lamb of God”*  
**437** *“Alas! And Did My Saviour Bleed”*

**Post-Communion Canticle:** *“Nunc Dimittis,”* p.165

**Closing Hymn 669**

*“Come We That Love the Lord”*

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*For more information on the church save the announcements insert.*

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**“Jesus Casts Out a Demon”**

*“The people marvelled.  
But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul,  
the prince of demons...’”*

Luke 11:14-15

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
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