

SEPTUAGESIMA—(70 days till Easter)
February 5th, 2012

"Septuagesima" marks the count down to Easter—"70 days" (give or take). Preparing for Easter means considering our Lord's mercy and our standing apart from that mercy. It is never our merit that causes God to be merciful, but His love and our need. Indeed, if we had no need why would God have to be merciful to us? But thanks be to God His mercy is poured out on us in so many ways: water for the thirsty, strength, stamina, food and drink for the weary, mercy to the undeserving—all for Jesus' sake.

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 Four*, p.203.

*This bulletin contains all the options not contained in the service on p.203.
We suggest you use it as a bookmark in your Service Book.*

Hymn 566

"By Grace I'm Saved"

Introit

Ps. 18:1-2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: Ps. 18:5-6a

The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me,*
the snares of death con- | fronted me.
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord.*
From his temple he | heard my voice.
I love you, O | Lord, my strength.*
The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my de- | liverer,
For you save a humble | people,*
but the haughty eyes | you bring down.
[You have] equipped | me with strength*
and made my way | blameless.
For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the | nations,*
and sing | to your name.

**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.**
The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me,*
the snares of death con- | fronted me.
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord.*
From his temple he | heard my voice.

Collect

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalm 95:1-9

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

^{10:1}I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Hymn of the Day: 827

“Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”

Sermon:

“Quarreling with the Lord vs. Wrestling with Him”

**Distribution Hymn: 550
662**

*“Lamb of God”
“Onward Christian Soldiers”*

Closing Hymn 761

“Rock of Ages”

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For more information on the church save the announcements insert.

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(“70” Days till Easter)

February 5th, 2012



“The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard”

*“Do you begrudge my generosity?
So the last will be first and the first last.”*

Matthew 20:16

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Thunder Bay, ON