

SEXAGESIMA—"60" days till Easter)
February 12th, 2012

Sexagesima or "sixty days" to Easter. The count down is on, and as we count we prepare. How in the world can we prepare for Jesus' resurrection? Only through His Word which bespeaks us righteous. His Word readies us for Him. In fact, His Word is Him. This Word has power, for through it Jesus comes into you and makes you ready, firstly, by His Word giving you the gift of repentance from your sins, and then by giving you the gift of forgiveness, all through your ears.

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 578

"Thy Strong Word"

St. 1, 3, 5

Introit

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

Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*

Rise up; come | to our help!

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have | told us,*

what deeds you performed in their days, in the | days of old:

you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you | planted;*

you afflicted the peoples, but them you | set free.

But you have saved us | from our foes*

and have put to shame those who | hate us.

In God we have boasted con- | tinually,*

and we will give thanks to your name for- | ever.

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.

Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*

Rise up; come | to our help!

Collect

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Psalm 84

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 4:9-13

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Gospel Reading

Luke 8:4-15

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

Hymn of the Day: 827

“Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”

Sermon:

“Men Are Deaf”

**Distribution Hymn: 588
577**

*“Jesus Loves Me”
“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”*

Closing Hymn 921

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

Epiphany Lutheran Church, 499 Dewe Ave., Thunder Bay ON P7A 2H1 683.6621
epiphany@tbaytel.net or pastorh@tbaytel.net
www.epiphanythunderbay.com

For more information on the church save the announcements insert.

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(“60” Days till Easter)

February 12th, 2012



“The Parable of the Sower”

*“A sower went out to sow his seed...
The seed is the word of God.”*

Luke 8:5, 13

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Thunder Bay, ON