

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Reflecting God's generosity by serving and caring

3rd Sunday of Lent | Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 9:00am

Prelude

Laurie Thorstad

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Liz Paul, Development Director, Connections Shelter

Opening Hymn: **What Wondrous Love Is This**

hymn 666

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

L: 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 is kept for reflection

L: 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.

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sin. As a fellow member of the priesthood of all believers, and by the authority of Christ alone, 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.

Special Music: I'd Rather Have Jesus

Epiphany Choir

Apostolic Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, We, like Peter, often turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live, walking boldly and passionately toward you. Amen.

Lenten Acclamation: **Restore in us, O God**

hymn 328 | verses 1 & 2

Scripture Reading: John 18:12-27

New Testament page 98

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Chat/Teen Talk

Sermon

Rev. Sarah Deutsch

Hymn of the Day: **Our Father, We Have Wandered**

hymn 606

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: ...Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Hymn: **Change My Heart, O God**

hymn 801

Offertory Prayer:

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Preface

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

L: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

L: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

L: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: **Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken**

insert | ACS 966

Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

hymn 325

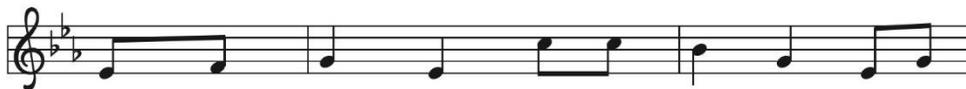
Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

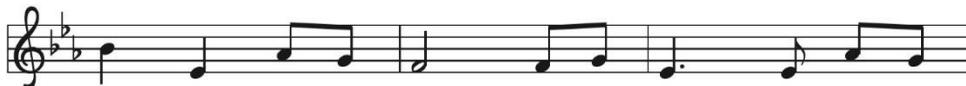
C: We go reflecting God's generosity by serving and caring. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

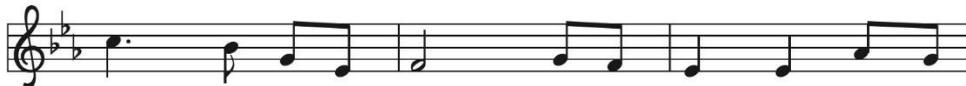


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Prayer Requests

Barb Youell	Becky Baer	Warren Hase	Mark Buesing
Tracy Enz	Chelcy Tullgren	Henry Hanson	Mark Hobbs
Gary Johnson	Linda Kiecker	Dennis Ninow	Barb Liptrap
Eli Mauthe	Andrea Myers	Brad Halleck	Joel Nielsen

- All serving in the military: especially Garrison & Megan Pfeffer (US Air Force)
- Our church family living with cancer: Sue Nasinec, Gloria Ideker, and others.

Praises

- Those who provided and served the midweek meal.
- Church council for their thoughtful decision making.
- Carol K. for baking communion bread.
- Our Noisy Offering from February for the Connection Shelter was \$84.28!

This Week at Epiphany

- Sunday, March 8
 - Worship with Holy Communion-9am
 - Faith Formation-10:15am
 - Adult Study-10:15am
 - Topic: Do Christians, Jews, and Muslims worship the same God?
- Tuesday, March 10-SAIL exercise class at 9:30am
- Wednesday, March 11
 - 9:00am-Quilting and Sewing
 - 5:40pm-Midweek Lenten meal
 - 6:30pm-Midweek Lenten Worship (Holden Evening Prayer)
- Thursday, March 12-SAIL exercise class at 9:30am
- Friday, March 13-Morning Prayer at 9am
- Saturday, March 14-Councils as Leaders in Austin, MN
- Sunday, March 15
 - Worship with Holy Communion-9am
 - Faith Formation-10:15am
 - Adult Study-10:15am
 - Topic: Why did Jesus have to die?

Income & Expenses at a Glance

General Fund			Current Mortgage Balance	Endowment Fund	
	01/31/26	YTD 2026		Beg Bal 1/1/2025	\$27,475
Income	8,450	8,450	\$0	Ministry Growth	\$1,060
Expenses	-11,657	-11,657		Market Change	\$3,468
Net gain/loss	-3,207	-3,207		End Bal 12/31/2025	32,004.86

Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

	March 8	March 15	March 22
Greeter	Joel & Donna Nielsen	Deb & Brian Fingerson	Mike & Linda Arndt
Reader	Kari Severson	Dave Overholser	Katie Sieberg
Communion Servers	Colleen Hall Winnis Buesing	Linda Arndt Lisa Nagel	Sue Brunz Donna Nielsen
Ushers	Duane Anderson Jane Carter	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Amy Ely Carol Regnier
Acolyte/ Power Point	Grace	Sheldon	Gavin
Open/Close	Kari Severson Katie Sieberg	Sue Edstrom Colleen Hall	Pastor Sarah Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Bruce Sieberg Tracy Enz	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Theresa Mosher Sue Brunz
Altar Guild	Patty Adams Linda Arndt	Patty Adams Linda Arndt	Becky Overholser Vickie Huebl
Fellowship	Terry Krook; Duane Anderson & Jane Carter	Korey Leiferman; Larry & Bernita Geving	Winnis Buesing Deb & Brian Fingerson

Announcements

- Items needed for the Epiphany Little Pantry: cereal; canned meats (spam, ham, roast beef); boxed meals (such as hamburger helper or Velveeta skillet); hearty soups; peanut butter and jelly; rice
- March noisy offering will go to Eagle Lake Lions
- The Envelopes for easter flower memorials are in the pews. They are due by Palm Sunday.
- Spring Scraftin' is upon us! Sign up on the green bulletin board to help serve or provide items. This event is a great fundraiser for our congregation, and we are well known for our hospitality at this event. Thank you for your support in making this event so wonderful!
- Church council and committee meetings are on Monday, March 16.
- It is time for a meat raffle! Tickets can be picked up in the narthex following worship. Tickets must be returned to the church no later than April 19. Tickets are \$5 each. Three meat bundles winners

will be drawn. Bundles are valued at \$140, \$90, and \$80. Drawing will take place at 2:00pm on Saturday, April 25.

- **Save the Date: Saturday: April 25 1:00-2:30pm**
Join us for a fun event for the whole family! We will enjoy a concert by Cowboy Crommert, Trivia, and have the drawing for the meat raffle.
- **Youth Night: Wednesday, April 1 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at WOW Zone.** Unlimited bowling, laser tag, and mini golf. No cost to participants. Friends are welcome. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the youth room by Sunday, March 29.

Holy Week at Epiphany Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday-Sunday, March 29 @ 9am

This festive worship service takes place in two parts. It begins with the procession of palms branches, which gives the day its name. The procession with palms provides an appropriate outburst of joy that does not lose sight of the solemn goal of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem: the cross. The somberness that the service transitions to provides the focus for Holy Week. Holy Week is framed by the joy of the procession of palms and by the greater joy of Easter.

Following the worship service, you are invited to join us for a special time of fellowship sponsored by the Epiphany Fellowship Committee.

Maundy Thursday-Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30pm

Traditionally Maundy Thursday focuses on the institution of the Lord's Supper and the *mandatum*, or mandate that Jesus gives his disciples to love one another as Christ has loved them. This year, as we follow the narrative lectionary and the Gospel of John, we will also take time to reflect on Jesus' last words as given in John 19:23-30. This service concludes the season of Lenten repentance, as we receive individual absolutions, and draw our focus to the central events of Christianity: the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

Good Friday-Friday, April 3 @ 6:30pm

This worship service is a continuation of what began on Maundy Thursday and therefore begins "in the middle" with uncharacteristic quiet. This worship service calls us to prayer and reflection on the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is a great deal of silence as we meditate on the mystery of the crucified Savior and the mystery of our redemption through it. This service includes a *Tenebrae* style of worship.

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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