

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026, 7 PM

Far Hills Campus (Livestreamed)

Gather

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## WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *RHOSYMEDRE* (arr. Ralph Vaughan-Williams)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Most merciful God

**C: We confess that we are captive 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 way  
To the glory of your holy name, Amen**

## INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

**OPENING HYMN: GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US HERE**

#358

(v. 1 – Solo, v. 2 – Choir, vv. 3-5 – All)



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Word

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### **FIRST READING: EXODUS 12:1-4, 11-14**

*<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.*

*<sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.*

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19**

A: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and listened to my supplication

**C: The Lord has given ear to me whenever I called**

A: How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me

**C: I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord**

A: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people

**C: I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord**



P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL READING: JOHN 13:1-17,31-35**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

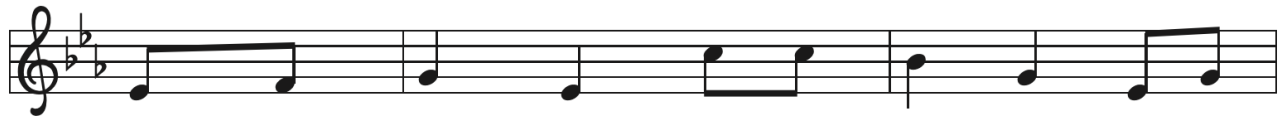
<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

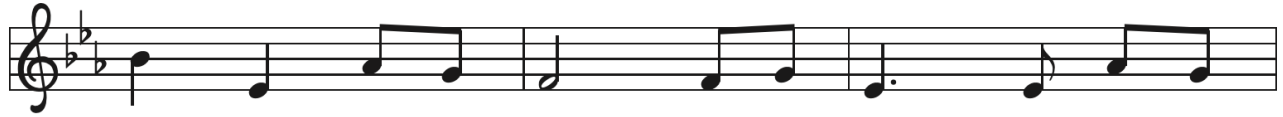
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY: 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

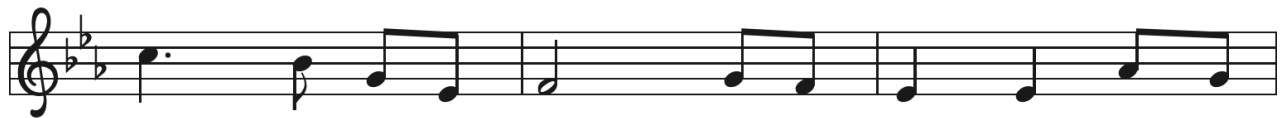


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

*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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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A:** Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** Please stand as you are able.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW 3

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

### SANCTUS: ELW 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are more varied than in the first section, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some rests. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe....

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION MUSIC:** *IN REMEMBRANCE* (Buryl Red)

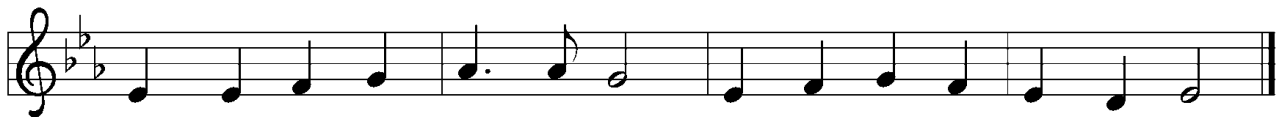
*Epiphany Chorale, Micah Hung, clarinet*



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

### THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*After communion, the service concludes with the stripping of the altar, symbolizing the humiliation, suffering, and death of Jesus. The musicians chant Psalm 22, the opening verses of which Jesus quoted from the cross. The altar remains bare until the Easter celebration.*

*The congregation departs in silence.*

*The omission of benedictions at the end of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services indicates their continuity with each other and with the services of Easter.*

## Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer  
Assisting Minister: Judith Clark  
Organist: John Benjamin  
Sound: Alan Cruz  
Stream Team: Melonie June Warren, Alex Wasser  
Ushers: Kevin Carlson, George Downs