

First Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme - “The Message & The Messenger”

March 06, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: ... we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Forty Days

(words below)

Forty day to wander, forty days to die to self. Forty days to grow stronger as faith breaks open the gates of hell. The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone in the hearts of the faithful, broken on the wheels of love.

‘Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you, bind and break you.

Forty days to remember the Paschal sacrifice. Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life.

The jubilee is over, but mercy's far from gone in the arms of the Father as the wayward child comes home.

‘Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you.

Bind and break you. Bind and break you, bind and break you, bind and break you.

Greeting

P: 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!

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

(This Lenten season, as we focus on Jesus as both Message and Messenger, we will use Eugene Peterson's "The Message" translations for all readings until Holy Week, where we will use that translation for just the Gospel. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) will be printed each week in the worship folder at the conclusion of the service.)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – “The Message” Translation

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹Once you enter the land that God, your God, is giving you as an inheritance and take it over and settle down, ²you are to take some of all the first fruits of what you grow in the land that God, your God, is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place God, your God, sets apart for you to worship him. ³At that time, go to the priest who is there and say, “I announce to God, your God, today that I have entered the land that God promised our ancestors that he'd give to us.” ⁴The priest will take the basket from you and place it on the Altar of God, your God. And there in the Presence of God, your God, you will recite: ⁵A wandering Aramean was my father, he went down to Egypt and sojourned there, he and just a handful of his brothers at first, but soon they became a great nation, mighty and many. ⁶The Egyptians abused and battered us, in a cruel and savage slavery. ⁷We cried out to God, the God-of-Our-Fathers: He listened to our voice, he saw our destitution, our trouble, our cruel plight. ⁸And God took us out of Egypt with his strong hand and long arm, terrible and great, with signs and miracle-wonders. ⁹And he brought us to this place, gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. So here I am. I've brought the first fruits of what I've grown

on this ground you gave me, O God. ¹⁰ Then place it in the Presence of God, your God. Bow low in the Presence of God, your God. ¹¹ And rejoice! Celebrate all the good things that God, your God, has given you and your family; you and the Levite and the foreigner who lives with you.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Return to the Lord

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 – “The Message” Translation

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. ² For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. ³ The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.” ⁷ Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” ⁸ Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.” ⁹ For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. ¹⁰ It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; ¹¹ they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone?’” ¹² “Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’” ¹³ That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

Apostles Creed

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 / Sign of the Peace

Offering (*encouraged for before or after service, using vase only and not ushers*)

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

Communion

Communion Songs:

**Lead Me, Guide Me
When the Poor Ones**

ELW 768

ELW 725

Final Blessing

P: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW 333

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alternate NRSV Lesson/Gospel Translations

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 6, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/7—Lisa Schlagel
3/11—Laura Acker
3/13—Brenda Denoyer

3/8—Corinne Hill
3/12—Tom Christensen

Please note the change: A COVID update from Council:

Last week, the Grand Traverse County Covid positivity dipped below the 14-day average 17.5% Covid positivity threshold set up by Council for our current precautions. **Therefore, we will transition to a new worship masking standard of "masks optional for vaccinated persons and required for unvaccinated persons."** This will ensure that we are doing our part to keep our parishioners and community safe. Stay safe, pray for all good things, and see you soon!

-Your Bethlehem Church Council

Lent Update: As Covid numbers seem now to be heading in an encouraging direction, we hope to ease back into Fellowship supper gatherings this Lenten season. For March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6th, we are planning to have a "simple soup and bread*" dinner in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship at 6:30. Our 1st Communion students will have class before dinner for the majority of Lent nights. Here's our schedule for each night:

5:30pm - 1st Communion Class in the Youth Room (others welcome to socialize in the Gathering Space)
There will also be activities for the younger youth at 5:30pm in the Gathering Space.

6:00pm - "A Simple Soup* at Six"

6:30pm - Brief Worship (Holden Evening Prayer, Taize, or Scripture with Songs and short message for approximately 30 minutes)

****Our soup each night will be served also with bread, a veggie tray, dessert, coffee and punch.***

Our Lenten theme this year is "The Message and the Messenger" and will focus during the worship message on an eclectic mix of biblical and modern messengers of the gospel. We hope to see you then!

Daylight Savings Time begins on the morning of March 13th so be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. Spring Forward!

Please note that the new Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements are available in your mailbox in the Narthex. The statement covers giving from January through December 2021. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of March 2022. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church especially during these uncertain times. Your Bookkeeper

The March issue of the STAR is available today. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)

Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Wednesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)

Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)

Monthly STAR: Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June Christ in our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings, from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT FOR 2022: We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. We would like to have baskets available beginning in March. Thank you for your participation!

Book Club: The book for the Mar. 22 book club meeting at 5:30 on ZOOM is The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood. I am assured that it is different from the TV show if you have watched that. I think it is going to take many of us out of our "comfort zone". Books from the library are in the plastic bin outside of church. Be sure to sign your name on the sheet next to the number that matches the number on your book. Below is a description of the book:

"Set in the near future, it describes life in what was once the United States, now called the Republic of Gilead, a monotheocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by reverting to, and going beyond, the repressive intolerance of the original Puritans. The regime takes the Book of Genesis absolutely at its word, with bizarre consequences for the women and men of its population"—

If you are not already on the email list and would like to join the discussion please send your email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

CHOIR NEWS: The choir hopes to continue singing one time per month on weekends when the majority of singers are in town. If you are interested, please contact Tony Bero at 231 942-1162 or bero.tony@gmail.com

Stony Lake Camp Registration is open and free to all young campers interested! The deadline has been extended indefinitely and there is still room! Please register online as soon as possible and let Annie know! The week Bethlehem Adult Leaders will be there is Week 1 (June 19 – 24) so make sure you register for that week! Reach out to Annie either after worship or at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org with any questions or concerns.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. While we do not have Altar Flowers during Lent, there are plenty of dates available for the rest of the year. You may use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. **Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administration Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance.** You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

The outdoor food pantry is closed until spring to make sure that none of the food is damaged by the cold. You can still bring in your staples at any time and place it in the teal bin under the table by the mailboxes. One BLC member knew of an apartment complex for low income residents with food needs and delivered 12 overflowing bags of what had been outside to the very grateful recipients. Please keep the residents of the 72 unit Brookside Commons Apartments in your prayers. Watch for the pantry to jump back into full swing in the spring.

Our blog has been renamed "Paths of Hope". Check it out on the Bethlehem website: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/new-blog-paths-of-hope>.

The Wednesday morning bible study of Matthew meets from 9-11am. All are welcome. Bring your own bible. We read the bible and then talk about what we read. We say a prayer for any needs that are shared. Come. Join a fellowship. Leader is Barbara Graf.

Quilters need help! We meet on Tuesdays 9:00am-11:00am. It is not traditional quilting. We tie three layers of fabric together. The "quilts" are sent all over the world when needed by Lutheran World Relief. So if you can tie or even cut, please join us on Tuesday mornings.

"Zoom Book Study" gathering via Zoom has returned on Wednesdays at 1:30pm for the new year. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. For this series, we have a new book, *Home By Another Way* by Barbara Brown Taylor. It contains sermons that walk us through the church year. The book can be ordered through Amazon - if necessary, Barbara Oster can help with ordering. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining. We will not meet this Wednesday because of Ash Wednesday observances.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. We have received a check from them for \$276.88. Please continue to drop your Olesons receipts off at church..

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information! If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

The church calendar has returned below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 6

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:00am—Worship and Music Meeting (CR)

Monday, March 7

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, March 8

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (FH)
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (GS)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
4:30pm—Executive Committee Meeting (CR)
6:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Committees Meeting (GS)

Wednesday, March 9

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Book Study
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—1st Communion Class (YR)
6:00pm—A Simple Soup Dinner (FH)
6:30pm—Lenten service (S)

Thursday, March 10

9:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (FH)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Friday, March 11

6:00pm—Faith and Family SG (FH)

Sunday, March 6

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion