

Second Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme – “The Message & The Messenger”

March 13, 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:

Here I am to Worship

(words below)

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

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: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 – “The Message” Translation

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

1 After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Abram. I'm your shield. Your reward will be grand!" 2 Abram said, "God, Master, what use are your gifts as long as I'm childless and Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything?" 3 Abram continued, "See, you've given me no children, and now a mere house servant is going to get it all." 4 Then God's Message came: "Don't worry, he won't be your heir; a son from your body will be your heir." 5 Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!" 6 And he believed! Believed God! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God." 7 God continued, "I'm the same God who brought you from Ur of the Chaldees and gave you this land to own." 8 Abram said, "Master God, how am I to know this, that it will all be mine?" 9 God said, "Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a dove and a young pigeon." 10 He brought all these animals to him, split them down the middle, and laid the halves opposite each other. But he didn't split the birds. 11 Vultures swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram scared them off. 12 As the sun went down a deep sleep overcame Abram and then a sense of dread, dark and heavy. 17 When the sun was down and it was dark, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch moved between the split carcasses. 18 That's when God made a covenant with Abram: "I'm giving this land to your children, from the Nile River in Egypt to the River Euphrates in Assyria -

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 27 – “The Message” Translation

1 Light, space, zest - that's God! So, with him on my side I'm fearless, afraid of no one and nothing.

2 When vandal hordes ride down ready to eat me alive, Those bullies and toughs fall flat on their faces.

3 When besieged, I'm calm as a baby. When all hell breaks loose, I'm collected and cool.

4 I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet.

5 That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic.

6 God holds me head and shoulders above all who try to pull me down. I'm headed for his place to offer anthems that will raise the roof! Already I'm singing God-songs; I'm making music to God.

7 Listen, God, I'm calling at the top of my lungs: "Be good to me! Answer me!"

8 When my heart whispered, "Seek God," my whole being replied, "I'm seeking him!"

9 Don't hide from me now! You've always been right there for me; don't turn your back on me now. Don't throw me out, don't abandon me; you've always kept the door open.

10 My father and mother walked out and left me, but God took me in.

11 Point me down your highway, God; direct me along a well-lighted street; show my enemies whose side you're on.

12 Don't throw me to the dogs, those liars who are out to get me, filling the air with their threats.

13 I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness in the exuberant earth.

14 Stay with God! Take heart. Don't quit. I'll say it again: Stay with God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Hear Our Prayer

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:

peach to all people, hope for each soul

God of Grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35 – “The Message” Translation

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

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

31 Just then some Pharisees came up and said, "Run for your life! Herod's on the hunt. He's out to kill you!"

32 Jesus said, "Tell that fox that I've no time for him right now. Today and tomorrow I'm busy clearing out the demons and healing the sick; the third day I'm wrapping things up. 33 Besides, it's not proper for a prophet to come to a bad end outside Jerusalem. 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killer of prophets, abuser of the messengers of God! How often I've longed to gather your children, gather your children like a hen, Her brood safe under her wings - but you refused and turned away! 35 And now it's too late: You won't see me again until the day you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

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 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:

Bless Now, O God, The Journey
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 326
ELW 335

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:

Forever Reign

(words below)

You are good, You are good, when there's nothing good in me. You are love, You are love, on display for all to see. You are light, You are light, when the darkness closes in. You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin. You are peace, You are peace, when my fear is crippling. You are true, You are true, even in my wandering. You are joy, You are joy, You're the reason that I sing. You are life, You are life in You death has lost its sting. Oh, I'm running to Your arms, I'm running to Your arms. The riches of Your love will always be enough. Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

You are more, You are more, than my words will ever say. You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim.
You are here, You are here, in Your presence I'm made whole. You are God, You are God, of all else I'm letting go.
Oh, I'm running to Your arms, I'm running to Your arms. The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.
Oh, I'm running to Your arms, I'm running to Your arms. The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.
My heart will sing, no other Name. Jesus. Jesus.
My heart will sing, no other Name. Jesus. Jesus.
Oh, I'm running to Your arms, I'm running to Your arms. The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alternate NRSV Lesson/Gospel Translations

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm 27

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord!

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

March 13, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/15—Jim Boyd
3/16—Edmund Mende III
3/20—Bill Springer

3/15—Ann Rundhaug
3/17—Ken Soper

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!

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

Easter Flower ordering deadline has been extended to March 20th. The yellow forms are in the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Rebecca in the church office 231-947-9880

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.

FOOD PANTRY SET TO REOPEN: BLC is aiming to reopen its Food Pantry on April 3 if it appears that the temperature should be staying above freezing. Watch for the weekly email blast that week to know for sure. Be watching for special deals on staples in the coming weeks so we can refill that cabinet. Food can always be placed in the plastic bin below the tables by the mailboxes.

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.

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 13

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

Monday, March 14

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, March 15

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

9:00am—Property Work Group

10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

6:00pm—Council Meeting

7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 16

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 17

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

5:45pm—Bell Choir (S)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, March 18

Star articles due today

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Sunday, March 20

10:00am—Worship Service (S) – *Special Forum to explore sabbatical (briefly during service and after worship)*

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion