

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: ... we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

The Word of God Is Source and Seed

ELW #506

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 God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Return to the Lord

S 142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, ending with a fermata and the number 'S 142b'. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of text. The third staff continues the melody for the third line of text, ending with a double bar line.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

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

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. 27 “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Day by Day

ELW #790

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 *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW#185



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
 pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
 with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. 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 (Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)

Communion Songs:

Bread of Life from Heaven
By Your Hand You Feed Your People

ELW #474

ELW #469

Final Blessing

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share your bread. C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 17, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/21—Susie Burton

3/23—Neal Kibby

3/24—Verna Farley

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Worship Servants for March 17

Assisting Minister—Karen Feahr

Lector—Nancy Ammann

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Hospitality—Tom Fink/Deb Hissong

A/V—Barbara Oster/Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter/Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Laura Hahn/Mike McCarty

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

Offerings: The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

The March issue of the STAR is now available. The April issue will be distributed on Palm Sunday, March 24th. 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>.

The April/May/June Christ In Our Home is now available. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room)- every Sunday at 9:15am.

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

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

Season of Lent 2024: Red Letter Zoom and Book Info This year's Lenten journey will be based in-part on a series by Zach Zehnder called ***The Red Letter Challenge***. Based on a book and video series, we will focus on the 5 weeks of Lent, and engage in some fun collaboration with Pastor Dana Hendershot and Immanuel Lutheran Church folks from Mount Pleasant along the way. The five weeks and their subthemes are:

February 21st (Wed-Tues) "Week of Being"

February 28th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Forgiving"

March 6th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Serving"

March 13th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Giving"

March 20th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Going"

Each Wednesday through March 20th, the 1:30pm ZOOM Bible Study and all others interested will begin studying this series, touching in on the days and themes (above) for that week. Pr. Paul will also engage the Thursday Lent Night dinner and worship participants with thoughts on that week's Red Letter Challenge Book topics. *For example, on Wednesday and Thursday, February 21 and 22, we will touch on the different thoughts by Zehnder for Days 6-12 of the "Week of Being."* See your emails for the Zoom link.

The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on March 21st at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

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.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Sat 03/23—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

Lenten/Holy Week Service Schedule:

March 21 – Holden Evening Prayer, Live Streamed, 7:00pm

Holy Week services – all are Live Streamed except Easter 8:00am service

March 24 – Palm Sunday service, 10:00am

March 28 – Maundy Thursday service, 7:00pm

March 29 – Last Words of Christ at Central United Methodist 1200pm (Pr Paul will preach on the 1st Word)

March 29 – Good Friday, 7:00pm

March 30 –Easter Vigil service, 7:00pm

March 31 – Easter Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

March 31 – Easter Brunch 9:00am

Lenten Soup Suppers: Thank you everyone who signed up to make soups for our Lenten meals. We have plenty of soups lined up now. We continue to need help with set up and clean up. Please sign up in the Narthex. Come for dinner at 5:45 on Thursday nights through March 21st. Enjoy food and fellowship be for the worship service at 7:00 p.m.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *Mad Honey* by Jodi Piccolt during a pizza dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Mar 26 – the group will meet at The Cottage. We have not read a novel by this author for some time. All of the books from the book club kit have been dispersed, but you can probably obtain a copy from the library. Please come if you'd like to share in the discussion of a good book.

Are you looking for something to do on Tuesday mornings? If so, the LWR Quilters could sure use some help in tying portions of the quilts. You don't have to know how to sew just know how to tie. They meet every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00am in the fellowship Hall. For questions, please call Betty Rutila 231-947-1013.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Yep... we are all still waiting... Unfortunately, the first draft of the directory sent to our fearless team did not measure up to their expectations. Our team spent hours making certain that every member's email and cell phone was correct, and that is NOT what they received in the sample copy. So, there is no tentative date at this time.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

Our Care Giving Committee has put up a "Communitas" Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This "BOARD" is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to "interact" with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our "Auxilium Communitas" BOARD (Latin for "Community/Congregation Assistance") is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this "reciprocal" - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm but will take a break from the Book of Mark until after Easter while they participate in the *Red Letter Challenge*.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to usually have the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. Already we have some exceptions... this did not occur in February due to the congregational meeting and also will not in March due to the celebration of Easter. So be ready to enjoy that new experience in April!!!

Name tags: Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

Food Pantry: We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On January 14, we received a check from them for \$255.85. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!

Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from **11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month** with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

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, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. We will not have altar flowers during Lent. You may sign up as of Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please 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 Administrative 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.

Safety and Security: Locking the Doors BLC has started locking the front door during Worship Services for a three month trial. The Safety and Security Committee is asking for volunteers to be in the Gathering Space during services. We would like to ask 1 member of each family to volunteer. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We lock the door 10 minutes after the service begins and unlock the doors as the service ends. The volunteer is there to let latecomers into the church. The volunteer will not miss the service as there is a way to listen to the service or if you have a smart phone you are able to live stream the service. Also you may leave the Gathering Space to go into the sanctuary for communion or you can choose to have communion at the end of service. (The musicians and people working the audio/visual in the choir loft receive communion right after services.) If you have any questions please talk to a Safety and Security Committee member: Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne or Jan Stretlien. Thank you for assisting in keeping our members safe.

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

Sunday, March 17

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 12:30pm—Confirmation Class (YR)

Monday, March 18

- 6:00pm—Grief Group (Library)

Tuesday, March 19

Bulletin articles due today

- 9:00am—Property Work Group
- 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
- 12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)
- 6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)
- 7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 20

- 9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
- 11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
- 1:30pm—Zoom Red Letter Bible Study

Thursday, March 21

- 5:30pm—ACA (Library)
- 5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)
- 7:00pm—Lenten Service (S)

Sunday, March 24

PALM SUNDAY

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Easter at Bethlehem

Palm Sunday March 24th 10am service (livestreamed)	Easter Vigil March 30th 7pm service (livestreamed)
Maundy Thursday March 28th 7pm service (livestreamed)	Easter Morning March 31st 8am service (NOT livestreamed) 10am service (livestreamed)
Good Friday March 29th 12-3pm service at Central United Methodist (Pastor Paul preaching 1st of 7 "Last Words of Christ") 7pm service at BLC. (livestreamed)	Easter Breakfast March 31st 9am breakfast Between worship services!

All are welcome!

Bayside Travellers

Contra Dancing

SATURDAY
April 13th

Workshop 7pm
Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm

Live Music
by
Last Minute String Band

Featuring calling by
Dave Goodwin

Dance by Donation
\$10 / person suggested

Thank you for supporting
traditional music & dance!

LOCATION:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City MI 49686