

Third Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme – “The Message & The Messenger

March 20, 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: Come to the Water (*version with musical notes on last page*)

Gather 202

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:

Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:

Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:

All who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:

Bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

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: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9 – “The Message” Translation

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

1 "Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water! Are you penniless? Come anyway - buy and eat! Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk. Buy without money - everything's free! 2 Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy? Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest. 3 Pay attention, come close now, listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words. I'm making a lasting covenant commitment with you, the same that I made with David: sure, solid, enduring love. 4 I set him up as a witness to the nations, made him a prince and leader of the nations, 5 And now I'm doing it to you: You'll summon nations you've never heard of, and nations who've never heard of you will come running to you Because of me, your God, because The Holy of Israel has honored you." 6 Seek God while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand. 7 Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness. 8 "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work." God's Decree. 9 "For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Hear Our Prayer

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul
God of Grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 – “The Message” Translation

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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

1 About that time some people came up and told him about the Galileans Pilate had killed while they were at worship, mixing their blood with the blood of the sacrifices on the altar. 2 Jesus responded, "Do you think those murdered Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 Not at all. Unless you turn to God, you too will die. 4 And those eighteen in Jerusalem the other day, the ones crushed and killed when the Tower of Siloam collapsed and fell on them, do you think they were worse citizens than all other Jerusalemites? 5 Not at all. Unless you turn to God, you too will die." 6 Then he told them a story: "A man had an apple tree planted in his front yard. He came to it expecting to find apples, but there weren't any. 7 He said to his gardener, 'What's going on here? For three years now I've come to this tree expecting apples and not one apple have I found. Chop it down! Why waste good ground with it any longer?' 8 "The gardener said, 'Let's give it another year. I'll dig around it and fertilize, 9 and maybe it will produce next year; if it doesn't, then chop it down.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message/Congregational Forum

Song of the Day:

As the Sun with Longer Journey

ELW 329

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:

**Beautiful the Wounds of Christ
Come Let Us Eat**

**BLC Choir
ELW 491**

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:

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Alternate NRSV Lesson/Gospel Translations

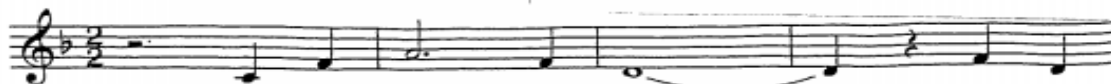
First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

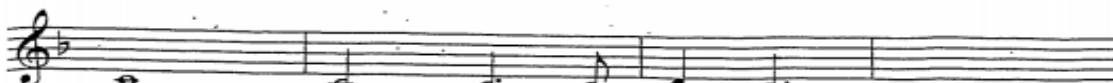
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

202 Come to the Water



1. O let all who thirst, let them
 2. And let all who seek, let them
 3. And let all who toil, let them
 4. And let all the poor, let them



come to the wa - ter.
 come to the wa - ter.
 come to the wa - ter.
 come to the wa - ter.



And let all who have noth - ing, let them
 And let all who have noth - ing, let them
 And let all who are wea - ry, let them
 Bring the ones who are la - den, bring them



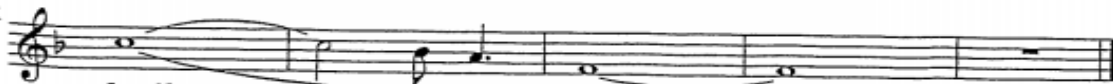
come to the Lord: With-out
 come to the Lord: With-out
 come to the Lord: All who
 all to the Lord: Bring the



mon - ey, with - out price,
 mon - ey, with - out strife.
 la - bor, with - out rest.
 chil - dren with - out might.



Why should you pay the price, ex - cept for the
 Why should you spend your life, ex - cept for the
 How can your soul find rest, ex - cept for the
 Eas - y the load and light: come to the



Lord?
 Lord?
 Lord?
 Lord.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 20, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/20—Bill Springer
3/23—Neal Kibby
3/26—Terry Lautner
3/27—Miriam "Beth" Chan
3/27—Shawn Antol

3/21—Susie Burton
3/24—Verna Farley
3/26—Kristine Smith
3/27—Dale Thiel

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 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.

DOLLARS AND SENSE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church has greatly expanded our outreach into the community and the world with our live streaming programming. We feel blessed to be able to do this and all of our ministries here at Bethlehem. We need your support to continue this work.

Through mid-March our contributions are running behind where we should be by \$13,585.00. That is a significant shortfall that we as a congregation need to address. We encourage you to stay current with your pledge.

Together we can do more and accomplish our vision for the future. Thank you for your support.

Jim Monroe, Your Financial Secretary

This year's North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday, May 14th. We are looking for two individuals or a couple from the congregation to accompany Pastor Paul for Bethlehem's participation. For more information, see the synod's website at the link below. The deadline for registration is April 20th. Please let the office or Pr. Paul know if you are interested:
<https://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/>

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. Look for April's Star next Sunday, March 27th. 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.

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

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!

Children's Message Corner: During the shutdown, Annie began meeting with the youth biweekly to do a virtual children's message. Now that we are back in the building we are taking that idea and doing something new! The brand new Children's Message Corner will take place every other Sunday on Zoom at 2:45PM and all are invited. We will have a few minutes of Fellowship before going over the Children's Message and have a more in depth discussion of the gospel lesson and message. To be put on the email list to receive the Zoom link please see Annie after worship or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

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.

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.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. We have received \$276.88 from Olesons so far this year. 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 20

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

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

Monday, March 21

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, March 22

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

9:00am—Property Work Group

10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom)

6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

Wednesday, March 23

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

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 24

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Saturday, March 26

9:00am—All-Star DE (FH)

Sunday, March 27

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion