

# First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



**Prelude Music**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: ... we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song:**

**I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

**ELW #325**

**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: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

**2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

**4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

**10 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## Gospel Acclamation:

## Return to the Lord

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.

S 151b

## Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

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

1 Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” 11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

## Song of the Day:

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #504

## 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**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves of each system. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords, primarily using block chords and dyads, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal melody.

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

**C:** God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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:

***When Peace like a River  
We Come to the Hungry Feast***

***ELW #785***

***ELW #479***

### Final Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Song:

***40 Days***

Forty days 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.

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve in love. **C: Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** February 26, 2023  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/26—Barb Beyer  
2/26—Crystal Fernholz  
2/26—Fay Miller

3/04—Kenneth Smith  
3/5—Jodi Kelly  
3/5—Cheryl Wegener

3/5—Joe Berry

**This week's Lenten service will be Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm – it will not be livestreamed.**

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

**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

**Pledges:** As Bethlehem Lutheran Church prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. If you have already turned in your pledge card, we sincerely thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so in the coming weeks. Please be assured that we will happily accept your pledge at any time in 2023. Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

**COVID:** Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

**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.

**Third Thursday:** The next Third Thursday service will be a Jazz Vespers service on March 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

**The March issue of the STAR is now available.** For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://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>.

**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](http://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](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- **Prayers read from the altar:** Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

**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](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**Registration is now open for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake** - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is <https://elcalivingwater.com>

**Picture Directory:** We have a chance to make a new directory this year, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way.

**Choir announcement:** The choir will be singing once in March and hopefully three times in April. Make a resolution to add some music to your life! Rehearsals can no longer be on Thursdays due to the Lenten services. They are now tentatively scheduled on Tuesdays March 7 & 14 and Apr 4. Hopefully more rehearsals will be scheduled. Follow the bulletin or contact Tony Bero at [bero.tony@gmail.com](mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com) or 942-1162.

**Easter Flowers:** See the insert with today's bulletin to order your Easter flowers.

**The season of Lent, and the promise of Easter are just around the corner.** Lenten Thursdays will have:

6:00pm Meal: two soups, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages (This week we know the soups will be Taco soup and minestrone)

7:00pm Services - Only the March 16th Jazz Vespers will be LiveStreamed.

- March 2: Holden Evening Prayer (No Communion)
- March 9: Taize "B" (No Communion)
- March 16: Jazz Vespers **with Communion**
- March 23: Taize "A" (No Communion)
- March 30: Holden Evening Prayer (No Communion)

**Sabbatical Team Update:** Something to keep in mind. A ministry sabbatical is different from a traditional academic or business sabbatical. A pastor's sabbatical is about the spirit and soul being refreshed, renewed, and redirected. The intent of a sabbatical, Sabbath, is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures or write papers. It is a time to be in solitude and to be with God, not "interact" with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to a pastor, it is not going to come by infusion of intellect, but by renewal of the spirit. Depending on what a pastor does while he is gone from his day to day pastoral duties, he will come back even more skilled and talented than when he left.

**The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant.**

Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

**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 or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

**Coffee and Cookies:** You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

**Name tags:** Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor, please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

**Adult Bible Study** gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

**The Zoom Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will study the Book of Faith: Romans. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

**BLC Book Club:** The BLC book club's Feb meeting is on the 28th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book is The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff. This book will NOT be in the outdoor box so you will need to find your own copy. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net).

**UPDATE ON BABY PANTRY:** March donations: laundry detergent and paper products. Note: Cleaning supplies cannot be purchased with food stamps, etc so there is a huge need for these items. There is also a need for food items. Anything you bring is most appreciated. Please bring items by March 5th so they can be ready to distribute on March 9th when the Baby Pantry is open. Thank You!

**A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts.** We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you 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 1100am – 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. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter.

**2023 Relay for Life:** The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

**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 [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** Note that flowers are not placed on the altar during Lent (February 26th through April 2nd) and will resume on Easter Sunday. 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.

**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 [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**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, February 26**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

**Monday, February 27**

7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom)

6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

**Wednesday, March 1**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

11:30pm—WELCA Board meeting

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, March 2**

5:30pm—ACA

6:00pm—Lenten Dinner (FH)

7:00pm—Lenten Service/Holden EP (S)

**Sunday, March 5**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (CR)

12:30pm—Confirmation (Offsite)

