

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning and as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

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!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

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

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

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.

Final Blessing

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – Everlasting God

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Pre-Chorus

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer.

Chorus

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint, You won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need. You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Pre-Chorus

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer.

Chorus

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint, You won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need. You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Pre-Chorus

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer.

Chorus

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint, You won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need. You lift us up on wings like eagles.



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

February 7, 2021

Ash Wednesday Parking Lot Imposition of Ashes will take place on Wednesday, February 17th at two separate times: 11:15am – 12:15pm and 5:15pm – 6:15pm. Parking Lot Communion will take place at the same times.

2021 Giving envelopes are available. Please call the church office to make arrangements to pick up your box. Those boxes not picked up will be mailed.

The FEBRUARY issue of the STAR is ready! 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 outdoor **“Shooting STAR Dispenser”** at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the February STAR and the current week’s worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Calling all Knitters!!: There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for January/February/March. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

The BLC book club continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm via ZOOM. On Feb. 23 we will discuss the book “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng. Even if you have not read the book you are welcome to join our discussion. If you are not on the contact list just send your email address to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net so you can receive the ZOOM invite.

Due to the restrictions in place at ski resorts at this time we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Ski Trip for this year. While we are very disappointed, Annie would like to invite the youth and their families to the **all youth sledding party on February 20th at Twin Lakes Park.** She will be sending more information in regards to more details in early February. If you would like to make sure you are on the email list or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org. We promise that we will have an amazing Ski Trip in 2022!

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson’s receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson’s receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Keep “Hope Spreading”: Don’t forget our blog “Hope Spreads Further” is still going strong! We’ve had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to Pastor Paul at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or Sharon at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you’d like to contribute to the blog!

"Zoom Bible Study" gathering via Zoom has completed its study of Paul's Letters to the Corinthians and will take a short break until after Ash Wednesday. The group will continue on Wednesday, February 24th from noon until about 1:15pm. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. We are using the book *The Great Conversation: Nature and the Care of the Soul* by Belden C. Lane. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

The cold and gray days of mid-winter are here and many of our members have little to no contact with the outside world. Please use your church directory or the addresses below to send a cheery note or make a phone call to someone. Don't have much time and not sure who to contact? How about choosing those whose last name is closest in the alphabet to your own?

**List of Home Bound Members of BLC 2021
BLC = Directory**

Marlene Baesch - BLC

Marinan Bradford - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI

Carol Collins – Burcham Assisted Living 2700 Burcham Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823

Brenda Denoyer - BLC

Richard Fernholz - BLC

Jo Hasse – BLC (in French Manor)

Corinne Hill - BLC

Christian Stretlien and Julie LaPeer - 14720 Mc Coll Ave. Thompsonville, MI 49683

Tom and Lee Miller - BLC

Nancy Smith - BLC

Lois Stretlien (Jan's sister in-law) - Traverse Manor Room #24

Ellie Tacke - BLC

Inge Thomas - BLC

Priscilla Thomas - Samaritas Assisted Living 4354 Mt. Hope Rd. Williamsburg MI 49690 BLC

Jan and Butch Waisanen - BLC

Dee and Bill Springer - Boardman Lake Glens 1400 Brigadoon Ct. TC 49684 BLC

Marjorie Whitney - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI BLC