

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## March 21, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



### Opening Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Fountain of living water,

**C: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

### Gathering Song – Restore in Us, O God

#### Verse 1

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

#### Verse 2

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.

#### Verse 3

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

#### Verse 4

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

### 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: 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

### First Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

### Gospel: John 12:20-33 (Pr. Paul)

*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.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>“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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>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 (Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the N/W Lower MI Synod of the ELCA)

#### 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 / Interlude**

### **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.

### **Final Blessing**

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

### **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **Closing Song – I Will Follow**

#### **Intro**

Where You go I'll go; where You stay I'll stay; when You move I'll move. I will follow. Oh, oh, oh.

#### **Verse 1**

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure; I will trust in You alone. Higher than my sight, high above my life; I will trust in You alone.

#### **Chorus**

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move. I will follow You. Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah.

**Verse 2**

Light into the world, light into my life – I will live for You alone. You're the One I seek, knowing I will find all I need in You alone. In You alone.

**Chorus**

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move. I will follow You. Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah.

**Bridge**

In You, there's life everlasting. In You there's freedom for my soul. In You there's joy, unending joy; and I will follow.

**Chorus**

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move. I will follow You. Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose, I will follow.

**Chorus**

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move. I will follow You. Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You.



## Bethlehem LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

### March 21, 2021

**"Table for 12":** For the remaining Wednesday in Lent (3/24) we will offer a special, in-person communion in the sanctuary for groups of up to 12 people, so 24 people per day. Pr. Paul will hold a brief, socially distant communion service from 11:15-11:30am and 5:15-5:30pm each Wednesday. **This will be by appointment, so please see the current Bethlehem Weekly to sign up online or by calling Barbara Oster on her home phone (231.668.7038).** This will be a brief 15–20-minute service, so please come at the beginning of the session.

**"Zoom Bible Study"** gathering via Zoom will continue on Wednesdays 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 BLC Book Club** continues to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm via ZOOM and made a last minute change in this month's book selection. On Mar. 23 we will discuss the book "Carnegie's Maid" by Marie Benedict. In this historical novel based on fact, and you can decide for yourself if a simple maid was the catalyst for Carnegie to become such an amazing philanthropist. Check the big box outside the front doors of church to see if there is a library book left for you to borrow. 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](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net) so you can receive the ZOOM invite.

**Help us decorate our church for Easter! We are suggesting a \$10 donation to help cover the cost of our Easter flowers. Instead of contacting the church office, please call Kate Holtfreter at 231-590-3946 before March 21st to order a plant and say who it is in honor of, in celebration of, etc. You will then send Kate a check for \$10.00 made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church (or BLC) and write Easter flowers in the memo line.**

**Altar Flowers will return on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.** Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. 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 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.

## Lent 2021 Season Schedule

**Wed, March 24th (Week / Faithscape #5 - Seashore and Lakeshore (Returning to the place/s Christ calls us)**

"Table for 12" (11:15 and 5:15), Virtual Fellowship (6:30pm) & Worship (7pm)

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**The MARCH issue of the STAR is ready!** Please note that the April STAR will be available on Palm Sunday, March 28th. 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>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the March 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 available for April/May/June.** 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.

**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](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or *Sharon* at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

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**

**Jacque Rossfeld – BLC**

**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 Thompson - 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**