

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 10, 2024  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



**Welcome to All!** We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like. During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place

### Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

#### Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

#### Prelude

### GATHERING BOLD CHRISTIANS DAY

**One Voice:** Made in the image of a bold, beautiful God, we yearn to embody that grace in this world God so loves.

**Many:** We long to tell our authentic truths, to hear and share stories, to nurture one another and serve God’s creation. We crave healing and wholeness for all.

**One:** But sometimes we are overwhelmed—seduced by what is frivolous, distracted from what is important.

**Many:** Teach us when to care and when to step aside.

**One:** We groan for renewal and change yet fear that we are not enough can immobilize us. Guilt and shame provoke us to be overly busy and to hide.

**Many:** Teach us when to rest and breathe and when to rise to action.

**One:** Where can we find rest? How can our lives make a meaningful difference?

**Many:** Teach us when to be silent and still. Teach us when to shout and sing.

*(continued on next page)*

**One:** Remind us you cherish us when we get it right and when we don't.

**Many: Embolden us to live fully in the freedom of your indestructible love.**

**One:** Show us the way. Stay with us while we practice and learn. Hold us always.

**Many: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**      *Give to Our God Immortal Praise! ELW #848*

### Greeting

A: 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

S 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**Prayer of the Day (All)**

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together...

**C: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**First Lesson**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

4 From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

**2 Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

3 gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**17 Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

18 They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**19 Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord and you delivered them from their distress.**

20 You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

**21 Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## Second Lesson

## Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 musical notation is written on three staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Gospel

**John 3:14-21**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

### **C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...**

Jesus said: 14 "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: ... The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

**Pastor Dana Hendershot**

Hymn of the Day

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

**ELW #666**

## 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 Intercession:** response after each petition: **“Your mercy is great.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.... (*Conclusion*) P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## MEAL

### Offering

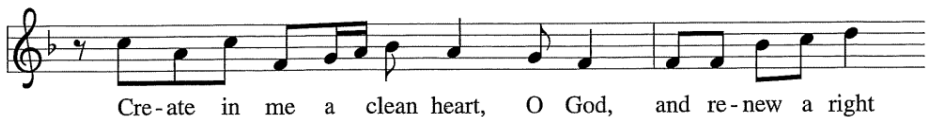
### Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

### Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*ELW #186*



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.

### 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.**

### Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

## Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might.  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### The 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.**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Communion

### Lamb of God

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*Just As I Am, without One Plea  
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*ELW #592  
ELW #335*

## Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Canticle

### *Thankful Hearts*

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. A-----men, a-----men.

## Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING

### 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

*How Great Thou Art*

*ELW #856*

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** March 10, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/11—Laura Acker

3/15—Jim Boyd

3/12—Tom Christensen

3/15—Ann Rundhaug

3/13—Brenda Denoyer

3/17—Ken Soper

### Worship Servants for March 10

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Hospitality—Jim/Dorene Boyd

A/V—The Acker Family, Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Laura Hahn/Mike McCarty

### Lenten/Holy Week Service Schedule:

March 14 – Behold Our Light 7:00pm

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

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

March 24 – Palm Sunday service 10:00am

March 28 – Maundy Thursday service 7:00pm

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.

**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.

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS:** The book club will discuss *Mad Honey* by Jodi Piccoult during a pizza dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Mar 26. 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 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.

**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 we are now able to show the livestream of the service on the Gathering Space kiosk screen. 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 10**

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

**Monday, March 11**

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

**Tuesday, March 12**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)  
12:30pm—WELCA Board Meeting (Library)  
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)  
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)  
6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)  
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Wednesday, March 13**

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

**Thursday, March 14**

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)  
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)  
2:00pm—TADL Book Mobile  
5:30pm—ACA (Library)  
5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)  
7:00pm—Lenten Service (S)

**Friday, March 15**

**STAR articles due**

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)  
1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)  
2:00pm—Amy LaGuire Internment

**Sunday, March 17**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)  
1:00pm—Confirmation Class (YR)