

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



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 – Canticle of the Turning

Verse 1

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Verse 2

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Verse 3

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Verse 4

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

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: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

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

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised

from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

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 – Dwell in Your House

Verse 1

You set me apart, gave me a new heart. Filled with compassion to share Your great love.
Show me Your ways, I want to know You. Guide me in truth, my hope is in You.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.

Verse 2

I'll hold on to You, my strength and my refuge. Whom shall I fear, I know You are near.
All of my days, I live for You Lord. Establish my path, there's one thing I ask.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.

Bridge

Holy Spirit have Your way. Sweet anointing teach our hearts, our lives we pray.

Chorus

That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.
That I may dwell in Your house forever lifting up Your name. Dwell in Your house forever more.



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 7, 2021

SPRING FORWARD! Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th. Daylight savings time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 14th.

"Table for 12": For the five Wednesdays in Lent (3/10, 3/17 and 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 4th 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 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 so you can receive the ZOOM invite.

Lent 2021 Season Schedule

Wed, March 10th (Week / Faithscape #3 - City and Township (The streets we walk, the structures that define...))

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

Wed, March 17th (Week / Faithscape #4 - Spiritual Valley and Canyon)

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

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! 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.

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!

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