

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Good Lord

When I look back, I can see that
It's You who met my needs, every time
Every moment, You were holding
Even smallest details of my life
I can testify

Pre-chorus

Oh, You never let me down
So I know You won't stop now

(continued on next page)

Chorus

I may not know what tomorrow holds
But I know one things for sure
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Every day, every step of the way
It's You who opened the door
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

Verse

It's still amazing, how You saved me
How You took a million wrongs
And made them right
And it's crazy how you raised me
From six feet under shame, back to life
I got to testify

Chorus

I may not know what tomorrow holds
But I know one things for sure
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Every day, every step of the way
It's You who opened the door
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

Bridge

God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good
God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good

God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good
God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good

Chorus

I may not know what tomorrow holds
But I know one things for sure
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Every day, every step of the way
It's You who opened the door
Good Lord, I got the good Lord
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

Good Lord, I got the good Lord

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: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

1 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

2 O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

3 If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

4 Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

5 I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

8 For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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 consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line. The number 'S 142b' is located in the upper right corner of the first staff.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

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

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." 28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord,

come and see.” 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” 45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

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

ELW 186

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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:

I Am the Bread of Life
What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 485

ELW 666

Final Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song:

10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me. let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing. Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day, when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending ten thousand years, and then forever more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 22, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/23—Neal Kibby
3/24—Verna Farley
3/26—Terry Lautner
3/26—Kristine Smith

3/27—Shawn Antol
3/27—Dale Thiel
3/27—Jenna McFarland
3/27—John Baldwin

3/27—Miriam “Beth” Chan
3/28—Paul Ton
3/29—Betsy Morley

Worship Servants for March 22

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Nancy Pflasterer

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: **NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT**

Hospitality: Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Paul Ton / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Volunteer

Bell Ringer— Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor—Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Counters: Laura Hahn / Laura Okimi

Social Ministry/Outreach update: Due to the cancellation of last Sunday's church service, our meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 29th after the service. Hope to conclude the meeting by noon so you can all enjoy your Sunday meal plans. Those planning to volunteer at Grace on April 26 will be asked to stay an extra 10 minutes so we can plan our first meal.

Please note that Pr. Paul's devotions in the "A Watered Garden" daily email will be on Wednesday, March 25th. If you have not signed up for the emails, now is the time to do it. Link: <http://eepurl.com/bcbuf9>

Verse O.N.T.A.P.: Do you like the Beatles, Pat Benatar, Bob Marley, Elvis (and other artists from the last few decades)? Turns out that scripture has some things to say about love, relationship, and some connections to these rockers' lyrics! Check out Verse O.N.T.A.P. on **Sunday, May 17th** 5:30pm-7:00pm at The Workshop 221 Garland St.

Sunday School and Sunday's Adult Education hold their classes at 9:15am on Sunday. **The Wednesday Zoom Book/Bible Study** meets at 1:30pm with a study of the book *A Watered Garden* by Benjamin M. Stewart and will complete this study on March 25th. A new book, *Mary's Memoirs The Hidden Years*, will start after Easter. See Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions.

Below are the important dates for Lent through Easter.

March 26 -- Lenten Meal and Taize 2 Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm

March 29 – Palm Sunday service 10:00am (Live Streamed)

April 2 – Maundy Thursday service 7:00pm (Live Streamed)

April 3 – Good Friday service 7:00pm (Live Streamed)

April 4 – Easter Vigil service 7:00pm (Live Streamed)

April 5 – Easter services 8:00am / 10:00am (only 10:00am Live Streamed)

April 5 – Easter Brunch 9:00am

There are no flowers on the altar during Lent. Please sign up for a Sunday beginning with Easter Sunday, April 5th

Synod Assembly May 15 & 16, 2026 Bethlehem is looking for 1-2 people who would be interested in attending and representing our church at the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage MI. Pr Paul will not be able to attend because of a funeral and wedding. Peggy Burns will take his place. This event will be held in person this year. The theme is CONNECTED, based on the message of John provided in Revelation 5:13:

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever.” If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Paul or Barbara Oster. Cost will be covered for the Assembly, gas, food and lodging for the night of May 15th. See the event information and registration on the North West Michigan Synod Website.

Creation Care Team update: our next Creation Care core team meeting will be Monday, May 4th at 6pm in the Youth Room. Subcommittee members may be meeting before as needed. Contact Paul Wiemerslage, Tina Dohm or Pastor Paul for any updates

Voices for Food Access Thanks to all who voted but Bethlehem did not win \$1,000. The 2 winning adult entries were the final drawing and the one in which fresh veggies covered the face of a woman and man. Bethlehem will receive a free entry to the Food Bowls event and \$50 to be spent on fruits and veggies. Thanks again if you took the time to vote.

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke’s talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC: **3/25, 4/01, 4/08** – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm **4/03**—Middle Coast, Traverse City 7:00pm

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons’ slips. On March 8, 2026, we received a check from Olesons for \$294.24. In 2025, we received a total of \$1031.80 from people turning in their Olesons receipts. We will see how well we do this year! Thank you so much to everyone who turned in their Olesons receipts. Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair or any other grocery store. We just collect for Olesons

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 on the calendar.

Sunday, March 22

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

9:15am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, March 23

2:30pm—Choir (S)

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

3:30pm—Handbell Choir (S)

6:00pm—Visioning Co-Leaders Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, March 24

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

6:30pm—Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday, March 25

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, March 26

5:30pm—ACA (Library)

5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)

7:00pm—Lenten Service (S)

Friday, March 27

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, March 28

1:00pm—Leatherman Wedding Shower

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, March 29

PALM SUNDAY

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

9:15am—Sunday School

10:00am—Palm Sunday Worship Service (S)

11:30am—Social Ministry/Outreach meeting (FH)