

Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 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:

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

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. *(continued on next page)*

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: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

1 The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4a So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for our new friends in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life of this congregation:

A representative of the congregation introduces the new members:

We welcome Jack, Jenna and Johnny Baldwin, Dar Haara, and Connor McNaughton to the family, mission & ministry of Christ at Bethlehem.

Address and Questions to New Members

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Jack, Jenna, Dar, and Connor, our brothers and sisters in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God’s people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: *(The minister addresses the assembly)* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses all.

(continued on next page)

P: Let us welcome Jack, Jenna, Johnny, Dar, and Connor to this community of faith:

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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

Offering / Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Create In Me a Clean Heart O God

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:

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore At His table.

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

There is peace at the table of the Lord. There is peace at the table of the Lord.
I won't worry anymore At His table.

There is healing at the table of the Lord. There is healing at the table of the Lord.
Oh and I won't suffer anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

I know he has a place for me. Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord, at the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord. I'm invited to the table of the Lord.
He says come just as you are to His table.

How Beautiful

How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled, who took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as he laid down his life we offer this sacrifice that we will live just as He died:
willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the radiant Bride, who waits for her Groom, with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give the fruit of pure lives so that others may live.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the feet that bring the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the Body of Christ.

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:

40 days

Forty days to wander, forty days to die to self. Forty days to grow stronger as faith breaks open the gates of hell. The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone in the hearts of the faithful, broken on the wheels of love.

‘Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you, bind and break you.

Forty days to remember the Paschal sacrifice. Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life. The jubilee is over, but mercy’s far from gone in the arms of the Father as the wayward child comes home.

‘Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you.

Bind and break you. Bind and break you, bind and break you, bind and break you.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 1, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

03/04—Kenneth Smith

03/05—Jodi Kelly

03/07—Lisa Schlagel

03/04—Joann Stepka

03/05—Cheryl Wegener

03/08—Corinne Hill

Worship Servants for March 1

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Pam Reid

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice

Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today’s altar flowers are donated: **NO ALTAR**

FLOWERS DURING LENT

Hospitality: Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Volunteer

Bell Ringer: Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor—Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Erin Word / Kate Holtfreter

Counters: Laura Hahn / Laura Okimi

Join us next Sunday for our monthly Traditional service

SPRING FORWARD: Don’t forget to set you clocks ahead one hour next Saturday night for Daylight Saving Time

Grief Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space, unless the TC schools are closed. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

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

The Fellowship Committee is looking for help with the Thursday Lenten meals. Funds are available to purchase a meal or ingredients to prepare the meal. There is also opportunity to receive support from Thrivent if we have 2 weeks' notice. Attendance at the meals varies but is typically 15-25. The dates for the meals are as follows:

March 5

March 19

March 12

March 26

The needs are for providing the main meal, desserts, set up and clean-up. Please see the sign-up sheets in the gathering space or contact Linda Hansen at farfromtown@aol.com or 231-590-4793 for questions or more information. Thank you.

Below are the important dates for Lent through Easter.

March 5 -- Lenten Meal and Taize 1 Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm

March 12 -- Lenten Meal and Behold Our Light Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm

March 19 -- Lenten Meal and Holden EP Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm

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

Calling all cake bakers! Last year, we provided breads and rolls for the winter Single MOMMS event. Single MOMM holds these event nights four times a year, designed to create a fun and safe space where single moms can take a break from everyday life, connect with each other, be encouraged, and enjoy a meal together. We're excited to support their Event Night again this year! This event is a carnival theme, and will include a traditional cake walk! That's where we come in - we are hoping to have at least 20 cakes to contribute, although more is always great. There is a sign-up list in the Narthex, along with a variety of cake/pie boxes. Please sign up to bake a cake, and take a box home to put it in! Cakes will need to be left in the church kitchen (marked for Single MOMM) no later than Thursday, March 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org.

FUNDRAISER FOR HABITAT for HUMANITY: Maybe you cannot wield a hammer or travel to a building site, but we all can eat! Culver's on Munson will donate a portion of all purchases made 5-8pm on March 11. Bring family, friends, and neighbors and help raise funds for Habitat.

March's XYZ potluck & presentation will be on Friday, March 13th. After a delicious potluck lunch at noon, we will hear a presentation by Kristina Schnepf, the director of Green Door Folk School. Green Door is a recently opened nonprofit that is rooted in the folk school tradition, offering hands-on workshops that connect people to passions, new or old, the land, and each other. Remember, XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but the time spent together and the wonderful presentations are enjoyable for adults of any age - we hope you can join us!

Creation Care Team update: our next Creation Care core team meeting will be Monday, March 16th 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.

Giving Statements Update: There are still some giving statements that have not been picked up. These will not be mailed out unless you call the church office and ask for them to be mailed. Your Bookkeeper

Please note that Pr. Paul's devotions in the "A Watered Garden" daily email will be this Thursday, March 5th and then on Wednesday, March 25th. If you have not signed up for the emails, now is the time to do it. See the link on the last page of the bulletin.

Social Ministry/Outreach update: Monthly outreach meal: We have a confirmed interested group of 10 volunteers to prepare a community meal the 4th Sunday of the month at Grace Episcopal. We would like to have 6 more volunteers so each volunteer is only needed about 6 times per year. Please prayerfully consider this service which we will begin offering in April. Even if you can only come once or twice in a year, your help will be appreciated.

Freedom Builders: Orientation meeting is July 21 at 6pm and work days July 22-25 7:30am 'til done - meeting at their new warehouse at 571 West Commerce Drive

Habitat for Humanity build: It helps to plan ahead... could you assist with a build project in Florida in late October or early November? Or perhaps a different build project? Dates are not certain at this time, but you could set aside some time and money. Or see the separate announcement about the fundraiser at Culver's this month.

REMEMBER: If questions, concerns, or ideas contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison.

Next meeting for anyone interested in Social Ministry/Outreach is Sunday March 15 after the service in the fellowship hall. 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.

Outdoor food pantry update from Linda Hansen: Our congregation provides food for two different missions: The Baby Pantry and the Outdoor Food Pantry. The needs are very different. This is the focus for the Outdoor Food Pantry: Food or toiletries in individual or small packaging. We have found the needs to be serving sizes of items that are portable. Some examples are:

tuna fish or chicken pouches (not tuna or chicken salad),
protein bars
granola bars,
trail mix
crackers or crackers with peanut butter or cheese filling
plastic fruit or vegetable cups
ramen, rice or potatoes in the individual serving cups or foil packets
oatmeal packets
small containers of peanut butter
jerky/meat sticks

dried soup mixes
dried fruits
Toiletries/other:
toothbrushes
toothpaste
feminine products
small first aid kits,
toilet paper
wet wipes
glasses wipes
hand/toe warmers
NO CANS or GLASS containers in the winter months.
No expired food.

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. This week the group will conclude the study of the book of James using the book *James: Walking in Wisdom* by Lydia Brownback. Then will take a few weeks to study *A Watered Garden* by Benjamin M. Stewart. Please see either Pr Paul or Barbara for more information.

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: 03/04, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm

Chair Yoga will continue meeting at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is still \$5 per class. The group will not meet on March 9th and March 16th.

The March issue of the STAR is available. If you receive the weekly email, your March issue was emailed on March 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. For current issues of the Star, 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>.

New Life Together Team: We be meeting this month. What we will be working on is setting up to visit our homebound and providing rides to church.

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,
Jerry Hill,
John Block,
Roy DuMond,
Mary Woodring,
Norm Fred,
Lynn,
Steve,
Sherry,
Bob,
Ron Hellenga,

John Stretlien,
Judy Fenton,
Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,
Lee,
Chris,
Dale and Cheryl,
Leroy,
Julie Barrett,
Patti,

Sharon,
Kyle,
Ken,
Marianne,
Christine,
Janet,
Cheryl
Pat,
Jan Schmidt
Pat Burton

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 1

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (YR)

Monday, March 2

2:30pm—Choir (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)
3:30pm—Handbell Choir (S)

Tuesday, March 3

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am— Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
10:45pm—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, March 4

11:30am—Music Rehearsal
1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, March 5

5:30pm—ACA (Library)
5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)
7:00pm—Lenten Service (Sanctuary)

Friday, March 6

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, March 7

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, March 8

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



A Watered Garden

Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology



Sign up for online Lenten devotions sent directly to your email address each day

Pastors from all over Michigan and elsewhere, including Pastor Paul, have written these reflections.

<http://eepurl.com/bcbuf9>

Do you like the Beatles, Pat Benatar, Bob Marley, Elvis (and other artists from the last few decades)? Turns out scripture has some things to say about love, relationship, and some connections to these rockers' lyrics! Check out Verse ONTAP on March 15th!

VERSE ONTAP

Old & New Testament Appendix Project

Theme: Songs of Love & Emotion – March 15th

5:30 - 7:00pm
@ The Workshop
workshopbrewing.com
221 Garland St, Traverse City, MI

Join us as we
**Eat, Drink, Listen
and Be Merry!**

A partnership between...

Bethlehem
Presbyterian Church

