

First Sunday in Lent

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 10:00am
Traditional Worship

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 in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

C: Jesus went into the city to heal.

P: Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

C: Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

P: Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

C: but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

P: There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

C: We are in God's house. Let us worship Holy God.



Call to Confession

A: Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer of confession responsibly.

Prayer of Confession

P: Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

C: Teach us a new way.

P: Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—**C: Teach us a new way.**

(continued on next page)

P: Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

C: Teach us a new way.

P: Teach us to live as you live. **C: Teach us to love as you love.**

P: Forgive us when we don't. **C: Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

P: Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Hear and believe this good news—

C: God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God, amen

Gathering Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

ELW 733

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.**

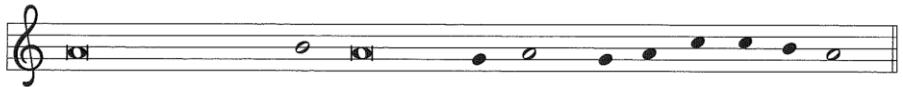
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

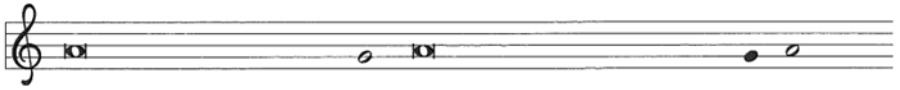


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

(continued on next page)



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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend 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 Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

1 When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. *(continued on next page)*

6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

2 you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.”

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,

10 no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.

11 For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

12 Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

14 I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.

15 They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

16 With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Second Lesson

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

8b “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Return to the Lord*

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, ending with a double bar line. A tempo marking 'S 151b' is placed above the first staff.

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

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

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” 4 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” 5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

(continued on next page)

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ 11 and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” 12 Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* **ELW 319**

Prayer for Illumination

P: God of the wilderness places in our lives, it can be hard to hear you in the desert. It can be hard to hear you in the city, in the midst of our calendar reminders, rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts. It can be hard to hear you, so we ask: make everything quiet. Pause the chaos. Still the rushing. Ease our racing thoughts. Give us ears to hear your Word for us today which promises that even in the desert you are full to the brim. We are listening. We ache for your good news. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Affirmation of Faith

P: We believe God is love. **C: We believe God’s love is overflowing.**

P: We believe Jesus is a river. **C: We believe that river is running toward us.**

P: We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel. **C: We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.**

P: We believe the wilderness is real. **C: We believe the desert is lonely.**

P: We believe that Jesus has been there. **C: We know that we do not walk alone.**

P: Even in the desert, **C: we are loved.**

P: Even in the desert, **C: God is with us.**

P: Even in the desert, **C: this love overflows.**

P: Thanks be to God, **C: amen.**

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.

(continued on next page)

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: **“Receive our prayer.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.... (*Conclusion*) P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering –

Zeke Clemons

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The image shows a musical score for the offertory "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Zeke Clemons. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

(continued on next page)

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God

S 154



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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*O Living Bread from Heaven
For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

*ELW 542
ELW 494*

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, O God, and lead us forth in

(continued on next page)

joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. A-----men

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray, Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 9, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

03/11—Laura Acker

3/15—Jim Boyd

03/12—Tom Christensen

3/15—Ann Rundhaug

Worship Servants for March 9

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Zeke Clemons

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *No Flowers during Lent*

Hospitality—Leonard & Barb Graf

A/V—Paul Ton / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee— VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Jana & Tom Rockne

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors: Jana & Tom Rockne

Altar Guild— Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Laura Hahn / Mike McCarty

First Communion Classes have started as of this morning. The upcoming dates are March 16, 30 and April 6 at 9:00am. For any questions, please see either Pr Paul or Sherri Helman.

NEW MEMBER MEETING: If you want to be an official member of BLC, please join us today after the service in the library. We will have some snacks, learn about Bethlehem, and have a chance to visit with some long-time and potential new members. Bring your calendar so we can set the date for official date of your acceptance during a Sunday service.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person. **They will not meet on March 10 and March 17 and will return on March 24.** It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

Family Movie Day at BLC! Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon movie on **Saturday, March 15th, at 3pm.** We will be watching the Disney Pixar movie WALL-E, which is a great watch for all ages! Popcorn and drinks will be provided. We will have some seating available, but feel free to bring camping chairs, blankets, sleeping bags, or anything else comfy you want! Invite a few friends, and plan on joining us!

Do you have a famous chili or soup recipe? Or, do you just really love eating chili or soup? The Soup & Chili Cook-Off is back on Sunday, March 16th, right after church. We will be raising funds to support Bethlehem's youth program! Prizes will be awarded for best in each category (beef chili, chicken chili, vegetarian chili, and soup) as well as for overall winner! Enter your special recipe or just come to enjoy a delicious lunch. Email Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org to enter the com

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. **If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container below the sink in the fellowship hall ASAP. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. The longer the stain sits, the harder it is to clean. Thank you!!petition!**

BOOK CLUB NEWS: The next meeting will be Wed, Mar 19 at 5:30. We will be reading "*The Best Part of Us*" by Sally Cole-Misch. This meeting will be a potluck held in an off-site location. If you are not a regular participant please contact Betsy Morley at betsymorley@charter.net for details.