



First
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 9, 2025 - Setting 3

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding
Karina Roth, Musical Director

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Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Introduction - The First Sunday in Lent

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Prelude *"Deux Pieces Canoniques: Adagio"* **Karina Roth**
by Theodore Dubois, **Erik Hahn on flute, Jessica Dean on cello**

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✚ Christ

your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Hymn *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* ELW 319

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie ELW page 138

Canticle of Praise *Glory to God* ELW page 139

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and help feed kids around the world!*



First Reading:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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. 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm:

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.

¹⁵They 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 Reading:

Romans 10:8b-13

^{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."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 142

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel:

Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **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.' "

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

*Source and Sovereign,
Rock and Cloud*

ACS 947

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill especially Gene, Soren, Duane, Joan, Christy, Lynn, and Bruce. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. (*A time of silence.*) God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

"The Feet of the Hungry"

by Linda Kachelmeier with Erik Hahn, flute,
Jessica Dean, cello, and choir members on stones

The text is:

The feet of the hungry bear the fruit of hope
The feet of the lost make trails in the wilderness
The feet of the persecuted bleed into the night
The feet of the humble grow brown as earth
The feet of the abandoned find a way through thorns
The feet of the fearful walk on petals of hope
The feet of those who are maimed or cursed or made
alien
Are the feet of the holy, are the feet of the people
Walking the path to know the path.

Offering Prayer

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

ELW page 144

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

Words of Institution

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on

earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is
everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the
flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the
sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the
wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your
anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took
bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his
disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for
you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave
it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in
my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness
of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome!



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.*

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 146

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

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. Amen.

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *As the Sun with Longer Journey* ELW 329

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"Deux Pieces Canoniques: Allegretto"*

by Theodore Dubois

Erik Hahn, flute, Jessica Dean, cello and Karina Roth, piano



Our Lenten journey has begun! Please join us Wednesday evenings for a community meal at 5:30 pm followed by a Taizé-style worship service at 6:00 pm. This Lenten season Pastor Calvin will walk us through the Lord's Prayer. Confirmation during Lent will pair students with adult mentors for an intergenerational faith-based journey. (If you can be a member, please talk to Pastor Calvin today.)

confirmation
class 

Communion Classes today and next Sunday after worship.

For anyone interested in learning more about Holy Communion, including third-graders and anyone who may have missed these classes in the past. Parents should plan to attend with their student. Please join Pastor Calvin in the library for this short course.

Your prayers are requested for healing: Gene Erickson, Soren Wahlstrom, Duane Ege, Joan Bieber, Christy Buetow, Lynn Schulte, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Silence, Hillary Freeman, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Vera Finn, Char Anderson, Les Donek, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Carol Ann, Mark LaKosky, Hank Ferland, and Jack Anderson. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*



This week we lift up these members: Barb Backlund; Harry & Peggy Peterson; Paul & Diane Jacobson, Annalisa Winje, Jack & Katie Peck; and Carol Backlund. May God walk with these friends in their Lenten journey.



The March Mission of the Month will raise funds to have a “Free Laundry” Day on April 5th, for local individuals and families. We plan to have an event on the first Saturday in April at Squigg’s Laundry. Bethlehem will provide quarters for the machines, and any laundry supplies needed. We will also have coffee and some kind of food available. We want to create a comfortable time for people to get to know each other, socialize, and learn about Bethlehem if they wish. We want to extend our welcoming atmosphere out into the community. Please support this project and consider coming that day to get to know someone new.



Member Challenge: Join in the Laundry Day at Squigg’s. Bring snacks and your stash of quarters. Plan on spending some time with your neighbors. Details regarding time of event to come.

FREE MONEY! Attention Bethlehem High School Seniors: Bethlehem’s Mission Endowment Committee offers scholarships toward post-secondary schooling. Applications can be found on our website (www.sharingchrist.org/forms) and on the Youth bulletin board (down stairs). There is a one-time Mission Endowment scholarship to high school seniors every year. Also available is a Concordia College scholarship for \$1000 which is renewable up to 4 years. **Deadline to receive applications is March 21, 2025.** Scholarships will be awarded at the CCHS Senior Awards Ceremony on May 22nd.



Hospitality Teams: Revised lists are posted on the window in front of Denise’s office, in the Narthex (additional copies) and in Fellowship Hall. Come and see which team you are on! Add your name to join in this ministry. Showing our hospitality is so incredibly important to make members and guests feel welcomed, involved and part of this ministry. Please share your love. ❤️



Worship Helpers are needed for the Midweek Lenten Services. Ushers & Readers! Please sign up on the purple form in the Narthex.



The Gauntlet has been thrown down.
 The Challenge is on for Diaper Wars!!
 All Middle School Youth and parents are invited
 to partake in a rousing night of Fun!
 Join Pastor Calvin on Friday, Feb. 21. 6:30–8 pm.



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Council Notes Council Monthly Reports are due to Denise by this **Thursday, 3/13.**

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Mar 9 8:40 AM Choir practice
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 with Sunday School
 11:15 AM Communion
 Class in library

Mon Mar 10 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
 6:30 PM Executive
 Committee

Wed Mar 12 12:30 PM Text Study
 5:30 PM Community Meal
 6:00 PM Lenten Worship
 6:30 PM Confirmation

Thurs Mar 13 8:00 AM Bible Study
 9:00 AM Quilting
 6:30 PM Ping Pong

Sun Mar 16 8:40 AM Choir practice
 10:00 AM Traditional
 Worship Service
 with Sunday School
 11:15 AM Communion
 Class in library
 2:00 PM Care Center
 Worship service

Midweek Lenten Services: are a study of the Lord's Prayer. Join us for a meal at 5:30 and service at 6:00 pm Wednesday evenings.



Confirmation during Lent: Students will meet with mentors for an inter-generational interaction after Wednesday worship.

Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards are available from Bethlehem to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

Coffee An': *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons. Zoom link is available.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790. Zoom link is available.

Free Bibles: Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. We have several lovely kits ready for sewing. You are invited to the fun!

A note about Gene: Gene Erickson is currently at Ecumen Lakeshore on London Road recovering after a week in the hospital. His direct phone number is 218-625-8223. We know he'd enjoy having a conversation with you as he recovers.

Earth's Cries, Earth's Call
Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation, Sat., April 5, 2025
 First Lutheran, Duluth and Online
 Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
 Presenter: Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

The ever-increasing cries of creation in crisis could easily overwhelm us.

Call the office for info.
 218-387—2227

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer. (Forms are available online & the office.)



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