



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 1, 2026 - Setting 3

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

Karina Roth, Musical Director

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Belonging to Christ. Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!

Introduction

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Prelude

Karina Roth

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and

made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

Gathering Song *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* ELW 335

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

Hymn of Praise *Glory to God* ELW page 139

Prayer of the Day

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 Time (No Pennies please!)

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 hand it to a kiddo!* The bank no longer is accepting pennies- please refrain from including them in the "Noisy Change" collection.

First Reading **Genesis 12:1-4a**

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Forty
Days
OF LENT





- ¹ I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;
 from where is my ¹ help to come?
- ² **My help comes ¹ from the LORD,
 the maker of heav- ¹ en and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your ¹ foot be moved
 nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- ¹ er of Israel
 will neither slum- ¹ ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵ the LORD watches ¹ over you;
 the LORD is your shade at ¹ your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike ¹ you by day,
 nor the ¹ moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you ¹ from all evil
 and will ¹ keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your ¹ coming in,
 from this time forth for- ¹ evermore. R**

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 3:1-21

The holy gospel according to St John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He 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." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus 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?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The 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." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus 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. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that 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." ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW 735

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members:

Kris Hedstrom & Mike Chmelik

Installation of Council Members:

Kristin Lindholm, Theresa Oberg, Joy Oberg, Mike Prom, Gwen Lenz,
Sue Hennessy, Patti Beyer, Melanie Olsen, Sarah Garness

Sharing the Peace

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

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 Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *(A brief silence.)*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss.

We pray especially for Joan, Gene, Rolf, Linda, Luke, Sarah, Bruce, Lynn, and Katrina. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence).* We pray for all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly *especially Patti, Sarah, & Melanie,* and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere *especially all those who moved for health and medical reasons.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died *especially Barbara Erickson,* and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Offering

Karina Roth

Offering Prayer

God our provider, **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 144

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
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. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 146

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross

ELW 803

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Karina Roth

next sunday march 8:

Spring forward in faith!

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.



We pray for healing for these

members & friends: Joan Bieber, Gene Erickson, Mary Sanders, Kristin Lindholm, Rolf Morck, Linda Zenk, Clayton Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Lynn Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Phyllis Olson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Annalisa Winje; Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen

This week we lift up these

members: Paul & Diane Jacobson; Becca Jorgenson, Keaton Riley, MaKenzie, MaTaya, MaCoy, MaKai, & MaKota Fairbanks; Marlene Johnson; and Betty Allison. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Lenten journey.

Our Mission of the Month for March is Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Rental

Assistance Program. Your giving will assist families in preventing eviction from their homes, will provide opportunities for families to stay together in their homes and will assist with utilities that will keep families warm, with light and with water.

Join us for a St. Paddy's Feast!

Saturday March 14th. Two seating times: 4:30 & 6:00pm. **Advanced ticket sales:** \$20/ adult, \$10/child, (wee little ones are free!) All proceeds will go to helping our immigrant siblings in Minnesota. **Menu:** Corned Beef & Cabbage, Vegan Irish Stew, Potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, & Irish Cream Chocolate Cake.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Mar 1	8:40 AM Choir Practice 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School
Tues Mar 3	8:30 AM Staff meeting
Wed Mar 4	8:00 AM Church in Society 12:30 PM Text Study 3:30 PM Bethlehem Builders! 5:30 PM Community Meal 6:00 PM Lent Worship
Thurs Mar 5	8:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Table Tennis
Fri Mar 6	----- Clarity Hearing ----- office is closed
Sun Mar 8	8:40 AM Choir practice 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School

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CYF Upcoming Events

Communion Learners Classes: March 15, 22 & 29, 11:00am after worship. Grades 3-5 or anyone that has missed this class.

Bethlehem Builders Club! After school program, grades 3-5, Wednesdays after school in March. 3:30-5:30pm

Summer Camp: \$250 scholarships available for students going to a Christian Camp this summer.

Vacation Bible School: July 13-17, grades K-5. 9am to noon. Youth grades 6-12 can help lead!

See Jess for more information:

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