



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 22, 2026 - Setting 1

The First Sunday in Lent

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Pastor Will Mowchan, Guest Preacher

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

Average Worship Band, Music Leaders

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

Introduction

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Prelude

You Say

Average Worship Band

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Come Thou Fount/Come Thou King

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.**

Praise Song

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, **the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Psalm

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Sermon

Pastor Will Mowchan

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Confession of Faith

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

Petitions have been written by the youth who participated in the Lock-in last night. Each petition ends with:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace

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

Offering

Jesus Messiah

Average Worship Band

Offering Prayer

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.

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

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

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Jesus You Are My Life

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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 324

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Average Worship Band

Thank you to our guest preacher, Will Mowchan, a “somewhat retired” ELCA Pastor. His churches include congregations around Lake Superior in Ashland, Superior, Bayfield and Cornucopia. His wife, Carolyn, is also an ELCA pastor. One of their daughters and husband live in Grand Marais. Their other daughter, husband and son live in Duluth. All of them love Lake Superior.

Adult Education following this service will be led by Pastor Will and is titled “Family Separation.” The Soviet dictator Stalin once said that a million deaths are a statistic, and one death is a tragedy. The countless family separations now going on in our country are a statistic. Will’s talk is about one person’s separation from family. His father’s experience of being separated is one tragedy that can help us begin to understand the horrible impact that is happening to so many families in America right now.

We pray for healing for these members & friends: Martha Rosbacka, 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, Joan Bieber, Gene & Barbara Erickson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Annalisa Winje; Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Tom Christiansen, Karen Shannon,

This week we lift up these members: Debbie Bieber & Kitt Bjornson; Kyler, Kelly, Ruby, Max, Jamie & Kade Hawsen; David & Carol Berg; Peter & Susan Dixon; Nancy Dalbec; and Sue Kerfoot, May God walk with these faithful friends in their Lenten journey.

Our sincere sympathies to Ada Hill & Jill Hill for their loss of Jason last week. Please keep the family in your prayers as they journey through Jason’s loss.

Our Mission of the Month for February is the Activities Department of our local Care Center. We want to provide funds for more social events, equipment for games, and materials that will allow residents to pursue creative hobbies.

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. Purchase your tickets in the narthex after worship or through the office. Pastor Calvin & Sue Hennessy are coordinating this event. Gwen's Hospitality Team will be serving. Contact Pastor, Sue or Gwen to help.

Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Vegan Irish Stew, Potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, & Irish Cream Chocolate Cake. *You don't want to miss this! Music will also be part of the experience! Spread the word.*

Thrivent Members: We hoping to get 2 Thrivent Action Cards for the Irish Meal. Contact Denise in the office or Pastor Calvin.



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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Feb 22	8:40 AM Choir Practice 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School
Mon Feb 23	3:30 PM Girl Scouts
Tues Feb 24	8:30 AM Staff meeting
Wed Feb 25	12:30 PM Text Study 5:30 PM Community Meal 6:00 PM Lent Worship
Thurs Feb 26	8:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Table Tennis
Sun Mar 1	8:40 AM Choir practice 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School

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



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:
507-530-2763, blcyouth@boreal.org