

**AS WE GATHER:** “Here am I.” This is the simple, yet faith-filled, response of Abraham as the Lord calls him. Not knowing what the Lord will call him to do, but simply trusting the Word of the Lord, Abraham says, “Here am I.” As we look through the pages of Scripture those same three little words, “Here am I,” are echoed by others: Jacob, Moses, and Samuel—to name just a few. As people who the Lord has called in Baptism, may we also answer with the same faith-filled response, “Here am I!” We may not always know where God will lead, but we do know that the One who has called us will be with us as we follow where He guides.

✝ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✝

**Greeting**

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

**Hymn of Invocation** ..... “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” #438 (OT)

**Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution** ..... Page 203

✝ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✝

**Introit** *Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16*



**P** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*  
I will rescue him and | honor him.

**C** **With long life I will sat- | isfy him\***  
**and show him my sal- | vation.**

**P** Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—\*  
the Most High, who is my | refuge—

**C** **no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,\***  
**no plague come | near your tent.**

**P** For he will command his angels con- | cerning you\*  
to guard you in | all your ways.

**C** **On their hands they will | bear you up,\***  
**lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

**P** You will tread on the lion and the | adder;\*  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.



**All** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**P** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;\*  
I will rescue him and | honor him.

**C** **With long life I will sat- | isfy him\***  
**and show him my sal- | vation.**

**Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy**.....Page 204

**Hymn of Praise ~ Glory To God in the Highest** .....omitted during Lent

**Salutation and Response** .....Page 205

**Collect of the Day**

**P** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** ..... **Genesis 22:1–18**

*[Abraham prepares to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.]*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

<sup>①</sup>“**Invocavit**” is the traditional name for the First Sunday in Lent. It is the first word in the Historic Latin Introit and means “*He shall call.*”

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

- P** This is the Word of the Lord
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual and Verse** *Hebrews 12:2; Eph. 6:11*

- P** [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
- C** the founder and perfecter of our faith,

- P** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
- C** and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- P** Put on the whole armor of God,
- C** that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Epistle**..... **James 1:12–18**  
*[God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.]*

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia and Verse** ..... omitted during Lent

**Holy + Gospel** ..... **St. Mark 1:9–15**  
*[Jesus is tempted by Satan.]*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... **"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" #657 (G)**

**Sermon** ..... **"Faith in A Lord Who Provides" Genesis 22:1-18**  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ obedience  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ trust

**Nicene Creed** ..... Page 206

**Prayer of the Church**

- P** Let us pray to the Lord, **C** Lord, have mercy. or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

**Offering and Attendance Registration**

**A Matter of Importance:**

*Please Note: If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read **Communion Information** in the bulletin.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Preface and Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy** ..... Page 208

**Prayer of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer, The Words of Our Lord, and Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord** ..... Page 209

**Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God** ..... Page 210

**The Distribution**

*Communicants are ushered forward by rows. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. Please tip the base of the chalice yourself to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.*

**Distribution Hymns** ..... **"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray" #623**  
**"O Christ, You Walked the Road" #424 (G)**  
**"O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #707 (E)**

**Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon** ..... Page 211

**Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus and Benediction** ..... Page 212

**Hymn of Departure** ..... **"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" #418 (G)**

**Silent Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Sending:**

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

**WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH!** We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!



**COMMUNION INFORMATION:** The Lord's Supper is celebrated in our worship services today. In this supper, our Lord Jesus Christ graciously feeds the humble sinner with His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (*St. Matthew 26:26-28; St. Mark 14:22-24; St. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*). Scripture clearly teaches that anyone who eats and drinks the body and blood of Christ without discerning that body and blood receives a judgment rather than a blessing from God (*1 Cor. 11:29*). Therefore, out of a Christian concern for souls, we require a thorough instruction in the teachings of the Lutheran Church before participating in this Sacrament. Participation at the altar is also a testimony of unity of faith with all others who partake (*1 Cor. 10:17*). Since unity at the altar presupposes unity in doctrine and confession (*Acts 2:42*), we kindly request that only those who are in altar fellowship with us attend. This includes confirmed members, active and in good-standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches). Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently active members in good standing), who have not communed in the last three months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" but now worship in a different denomination should speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar. **Visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor before approaching the Altar.** We recognize that this communion practice is a sensitive issue for many and have brochures to explain it more thoroughly. These are available in the narthex or from an usher. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to speak with our Pastor. **All communicants are asked to register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex.** Please note that in registering you affirm that you have 1) examined yourself (*1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5*) 2) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (which includes the sin of irregular worship), and 3) by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word.

**WORSHIP NOTES:** The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

**AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY** - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

**IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON** the account of "Paul and Silas in Prison" serves as the focus. Just as God freed Paul and Silas from prison, granting them life out of death, so Christ by His crucifixion and resurrection frees me from the prison of my sins and grants me life eternal. Questions for discussion include "How is this event more than just a story about Paul's escape from prison?" and "How has God rescued us from the prison of sin?"

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Leviticus: Life in the Blood"** -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

**THE SEASON OF LENT,** a time of reflection, repentance and preparation. Our Lenten theme this year is "Who Wants Jesus To Die?" Each midweek service is preceded by a Lenten fellowship meal. Your assistance in providing food is appreciated.

**NEWSLETTER** - The **FEBRUARY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the March edition are due in the church office Today. Thank you!

**NEW CATECHISM:** If you ordered the new Small Catechism and have not yet paid for it, please do so. The church office needs to clear the accounting records. The cost of each book is \$15. Thank you!

**FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:** In order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, please pick up the Gospel of John books in the narthex to distribute to those in our community.

**A SCHOLARSHIP FUND** has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

**LIFE QUOTES:** "In a sense, that is where man is today ... dead in sin, awaiting the Exodus led by the Son of Man, the new Moses, into eternal life, undoing the separation of soul and body at death. Lent (and the weakness of our mortal flesh) reminds us of this separation, our sin. Easter reveals to us the Exodus, Christ's life that sets us free and brings us home." *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**OUR WORSHIP STYLE:** We are a "liturgical" church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God's Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, "We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us." If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

**ABOUT THE COVER** Jesus' announcement that "the kingdom of God is at hand" alerts all people that with the public Baptism of Jesus, the Father's plan of redemption for His creation had been implemented (St, Mark 1:15). Jesus came to dwell among His people and to secure their salvation through His suffering, death, and resurrection. God is love, and His love for His creation is the cornerstone of His kingdom.

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b>			
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
General Offering	\$3362.00	Sunday School	39
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	74
Building Fund	\$.00		
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]	Ash Wednesday (02/14)	55
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00	Communion	51

<h2 style="text-align: center;">OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK</h2>		
<b>Sunday (02/18)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Lent 1 (Invocavit)</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service (Setting 4) / Holy Communion</b>
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Kristen Harris
	Pianist:	Sylvia Frenzel
	Altar Guild:	Kelly Lawson & Lana Bowden
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson
	After Church:	Evangelism Meeting / Newsletter items due
<b>Wednesday (02/21)</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Lent Meal</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lent II Service</b>
	Acolyte:	Sara Kimbrough
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
<b>Sunday (02/25)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Lent 2 (Reminiscere)</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service (Matins)</b>
	Acolyte	Matthew Jackson
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Kelly Lawson & Lana Bowden
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson

**IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

**National Leadership and Military:** including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

**Health needs - Members:** George Nelson; **Friends:** David Bailes (2/18) [Steve & Mary Unk's son-in-law]

**Homebound - Members:** Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ...

**Celebrating this week: Birthdays:** Rev Adler... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Christopher Harris, Erika Roller, Jo Ann Tugwell, Mary Unk ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Albert & Yanneth Harris

**All who commune**

**NOTE:** New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

**TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678**

**Note:** The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM  
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM  
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

*“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”*

