

# Worship Guide for February 22, 2026

## The First Sunday of Lent



### Welcome and Announcements

*Let us prepare our hearts for worship.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with mercy and love. **Amen.**

Let us return to the Lord our God and confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God, ***we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We cling to the things of this world and resist the way of the cross. We turn inward, we hold grudges, we neglect those in need. Create in us clean hearts, O God. Teach us to walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.***

Hear the good news: God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are freed to love and serve your neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn****O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days**

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

**Prayer of the Day**

Together we pray: *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.*

**Reading of the Word****First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> 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."

<sup>3:1</sup> 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?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the

garden,<sup>3</sup> 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.' ”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,<sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup> 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.”

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> 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<sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

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

### Children's Message

#### Gospel Acclamation

#### Return to the Lord Your God



**☩ 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.**

#### Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## Welcome to New Salem

**We are blessed to have you worship with us today!**

If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at [newsalem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:newsalem@paulbunyan.net). If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

Website: [newsalemlutheran.org](http://newsalemlutheran.org)

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN



### Worship Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with various Sunday ministries here at New Salem! Ushers, readers/Communion assistants, helpers to set up Communion before the worship service and tidy up afterward, offering counters (we will train you!), and hosts for our coffee fellowship after worship. Sign up as a family or team up with a friend or two! **Signup sheets are available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Remember: If no one signs up to host coffee fellowship, THERE IS NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP.**



### Food Shelf Volunteer Dates for March



Monday, March 9: 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 12 – 3:15 p.m.

Friday, March 13 from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Karin Snortland at 612.940.7312 or via email at ksnortland5@gmail.com.

### Rummage and Bake Sale April 18



It's time to start assembling your rummage items - Saturday, April 18, is the **proposed** date for the 2026 Spring Rummage and Bake Sale. Items for the sale can be brought to the church starting Sunday, March 28. Watch the rear table in the fellowship hall for a signup page for sale prep/working at the sale and foam trays/plastic bags for baked goods. The Service Group will meet to finalize arrangements after worship on Sunday, March 15 – all are welcome to attend the meeting and assist with this event!

### 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 the People**

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

**Sharing the Peace****Tithes and Offerings****Offertory Hymn****Come to the Table**

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

**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.*

**Words of Institution****Lord's Prayer**

Together we pray: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**Sharing Christ's Meal**

**Communion Hymn #1****Let Streams of Living Justice**

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

**Upcoming @ New Salem**

Wed, 2/25	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
	Midweek Lenten Worship Service	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, 2/26	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Wed, 3/4	Choir Practice	5 p.m.
	Midweek Lenten Worship Service	6:30 p.m.
Thurs, 3/5	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.



**Sending Hymn****Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

**Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants****Presiding Clergy: Pastor Terry R. Hagensen****Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies****Ushers: Carol and Graig Gilbertson****Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya & Paul Kraft****Reader: Mert Schultz****Pianist: Cheryl Durant****Communion Assistant:****Cantor/AV Services: Traci Schanke****Fellowship Host: Pauline Golden****New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor****7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601****Office Tel: 218-586-2262/Office Email (Traci Schanke): [newsalem@paulbunyan.net](mailto:newsalem@paulbunyan.net)****Website: [newsalemlutheran.org/](http://newsalemlutheran.org/)****YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN****January Income vs Expenses (FINAL)****Total General Fund Income for Jan: \$17,339****Total Expenses for Jan: \$15,845****SURPLUS for Jan: \$1,494****2.15 General Fund Offering: \$2,515**

**Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 2.20.26)****Feb 15 Attendance (in person/online): 52/46****Feb 18 attendance (online): 39****YouTube Views: 335****YouTube Subscribers: 140****Facebook reach: 15,501****Announcements for the Week of February 23, 2026**

**Lent and Easter at New Salem:** Lenten Midweek Services on February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30 p.m. Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m., Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m., Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m.

**Birthday Bag Assembly on Sunday, April 12!** It's time again to put together birthday bags for the Food Shelf. We are in need of cake mixes, frostings (full size please) and birthday napkins – these items can be brought to the church before April 12. Our goal is to assemble 150 bags!

**Offering Reminder:** Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked “general” go toward New Salem’s annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

**Music Rights/Permissions for February 22**

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**Come to the Table** – Text: Claire Clonigen (b. 1942)/Music: Martin Nystrom (b. 1956)  
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Music: Joseph Barnaby (1838-1893); arr. hymnal version/Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

**Chief of Sinners Though I Be** – Text: William McComb (1793-1870)  
Music: Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

*Make a joyful noise!*

## February Mission Partner: Bemidji Community Food Shelf



### Celebrating 43 Years of Serving the Community



### Food Shelf Visits up in Minnesota

Food insecurity is a statewide issue impacting Minnesotans of all ages. In 2024, Minnesota's 87 counties saw an 18.4% average increase in food shelf visits. The ten counties with the most significant jump included both urban and rural areas. 53% of 2024 Minnesota food shelf visitors were adults; 36% were children; and 11% were seniors.

BCFS is a 501c3 non-profit organization and has been in existence since 1982.

Our mission statement: *The Bemidji Community Food Shelf is a faith-based, caring place that listens to those who are experiencing food insecurity. We work with our partners to be inclusive and to provide fresh, nourishing foods for those living in Beltrami County and the Bemidji School District.*

**Volunteer your time.** More than 300 volunteers give their time, energy, and compassion to help their neighbors, and we welcome anyone who wants to join them—there's a role for every ability.

**Make a monetary donation.** We purchase two-thirds of the food we distribute, making monetary donations essential to the success of our mission. We can turn every \$1 donated into \$4 thanks to our amazing partners.

**Donate goods.** Every month, generous contributions from members of our community help support local households with food, personal care products, and other essentials.

### *God's Work, Our Treasure—February 2026*

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, the **Bemidji Community Food Shelf**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the work of the **Food Shelf**

And we will forward your gift to them. <https://www.bcfsmn.org/>

*Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.*



## **Readings for February 22, 2026 - First Sunday in Lent**

Each year, Lent begins with a synoptic account of the temptation of Jesus. Jesus was truly human, suffering from the devil's temptations no less than we, and so he can stand by us when we are tempted. We too conquer evil with the power of God's word: and that word for us is embodied in Christ. In worship, we hear that word and eat the food of God.

**Matthew 4:1-11**: We begin our Christian life with baptism and then, like Jesus, face temptations. Each temptation as described in Matthew has symbolic meaning for us: we are tempted to survive apart from the food from comes from God, to assume that God will miraculously protect us, and to worship the world instead of God. God's Word protects us, and angels attend us.

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**: Jesus withstood temptation, but we do not. Genesis 2–3 provides a foil to the gospel by presenting its opposite. This ancient tale of the origins of human suffering has much wisdom to offer. Although we do not encounter talking serpents, we do disobey God, and we do eat false foods, and we do invite others to join us in disobedience, and we do know shame and sexual sorrow.

**Romans 5:12-19**: Paul's analysis of the Genesis 2–3 story is helpful in our time. Not interested in probing the details of the ancient narrative, Paul uses the story to illumine Christ. The ancient story tells of sin and death, and Christ brings us to grace and life.

### **Images in the Readings**

Matthew writes that Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. In the Bible, forty is always the time between, the necessary span before the gracious conclusion. It is forty, days or years, that numbers the rain of Noah's flood, Moses on Mount Sinai, Israel in the wilderness, the spies scouting out Canaan, Israel in the hands of the Philistines, the taunting by Goliath, the reign of Saul, David, and Solomon, Ezekiel lying on his right side, Nineveh's repentance, and Jesus' appearance after Easter. For us, it is forty days until the celebration of the resurrection.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil—a stark contrast with the wondrous tree of life that appears again in Revelation 22—is a fascinating, ambiguous symbol, perhaps signifying the human tendency to replace God's way with one's own way, God's word with human knowledge. It is a mystery-tree that according to the story represents all that is wrong in human life.

Who initiated sin? In Genesis it is the woman, in Paul it is Adam—characters whom we recognize as being essentially ourselves. The storyteller of Genesis 3 joined with many others in antiquity by blaming the woman for all the troubles of humanity. In accord with a Christian theological interpretation of this story, all people are Adam, creatures of earth, and all people are Eve, bearers of life.

The gospel describes the devil as the tempter, the power that seeks to lure us away from God. It is this devil that much Christian tradition has used to explain the talking serpent of Genesis 3. The tradition of art has not given us profound enough depictions of this primordial evil, but in the usual image of a creature part human, part monster, we can see another picture of ourselves.

*Gail Ramshaw, sundaysandseasons.com*