

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Sunday, August 23 at 8:00 & 10:45; Monday, August 24 at 7 PM

13th Sunday after Pentecost / 12th Sunday after Trinity – 2015

Sermon: TWO LOST SONS; ONE LOVING FATHER

Luke 15:11-32

Learn About Us: Visitors – Please see the block on the back of this folder!

Benefit from this Service:

- + Use this folder to guide you; please participate and benefit: L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All
- + You may need one of these hymnals: TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal (red); LSB = Lutheran Service Book (maroon)
- + Use this folder during the week to benefit again from the Scripture readings!
- + Today's service is Divine Service, Setting Four (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 203-212).

SERVICE BEGINNING:

- ⇒ **Call to Worship Bell** (7:55-7:58 / 10:40-10:43):
Candles are lit. Please receive a service folder and be seated.
- ⇒ **Worship Area Doors are Closed** (7:58 / 10:43):
See the inside cover of LSB for prayers.
- ⇒ **Prelude** (after the Bell)
- ⇒ **Late Arrivals**: Once the service has begun, enter *during the Hymn* or *after the Collect*.

↑ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C: who made heaven and earth.**
- L: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
- C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**
- L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that *we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,*

and that we *cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition*. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, *our heavenly Father*, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
God, be merciful to me a sinner.

- C: Almighty God, →have mercy upon us, →forgive us our sins, and →lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L: Almighty God, *merciful Father*, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

As the leader goes to the entrance: Please ♦face the entrance, ♦prepare to sing the hymn, and ♦focus on Jesus!

Service of the Word

Christ is present to teach us the Word for our nourishment, instruction, and guidance!

ENTRANCE HYMN:

“Today Thy Mercy Calls Us” TLH 279, vv. 1-3

1. Today Thy mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Thy precious blood can cleanse us
And make us white today.
2. Today Thy gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be given,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heaven.
3. Today our Father calls us,
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heavenly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

KYRIE / LORD, HAVE MERCY:

- L: Let us pray: O Lord,
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: O Christ,
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: O Lord,
C: **have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION / GREETING and COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
L: *Let us pray.* Almighty God, our heavenly
Father, Your mercies are new every

morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

LAMBS CHAT: “Losing Your Pet”

All children (parents) are welcome!



10:45 Staffed Nursery (4 and under) – Parents can now take their children to our Little Lamb Room!

Read the Scripture Readings *before you attend* – to better understand and eternally benefit!

GOSPEL / GOOD NEWS:

The Gospel reading will be read during the sermon.

↑ APOSTLE'S CREED, SECOND ARTICLE – REDEMPTION (with Martin Luther's explanation):

- L: What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?
C: **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
L: Who is Jesus Christ?
C: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**
L: What has your Lord Jesus done for you?

C: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil.

L: With what did Jesus buy you back?

C: Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

L: Why did Jesus buy you back?

C: That I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

L: What makes you certain of such things?

C: He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity.

A: This is most certainly true. ↓

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Delay Not, Delay Not, O Sinner, Draw Near”

TLH 278, vv. 1-5

1. Delay not, delay not, O sinner, draw near,
The waters of life are now flowing for thee.
No price is demanded; the Savior is here;
Redemption is purchased, salvation is free.
2. Delay not, delay not, O sinner, to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls thee today.
Her voice is not heard
in the vale of the tomb;
Her message, unheeded,
will soon pass away.
3. Delay not, delay not! The Spirit of Grace,
Long grieved and resisted,
may take His sad flight
And leave thee in darkness
to finish thy race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity's night.
4. Delay not, delay not! The hour is at hand;
The earth shall dissolve,
and the heavens shall fade.
The dead, small and great,

in the Judgment shall stand;

What power, then, o sinner,

shall lend thee its aid?

5. Delay not, delay not! Why longer abuse
The love and compassion of Jesus, thy God?
A fountain is opened; how canst thou refuse
To wash and be cleansed
In His pardoning blood?

SERMON: “Two Lost Sons; One Loving Father”

Luke 15:11-32 NET

¹¹ Then Jesus said: “A man had two sons.

¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the property.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “After a few days the younger son gathered everything together, left home for a distant country, and there squandered all he had in wild living. ¹⁴ When he had spent it all, a severe famine came over that country, and he started to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and attached himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed hogs. ¹⁶ And he would have been glad to fill up on the pods that the hogs were eating, but no one would give him any.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father's hired men have more food than they can eat, and here I am starving to death. ¹⁸ I shall get up and go to my father and tell him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I do not deserve to be called your son anymore. Make me one of your hired men.’”

²⁰ “So he got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ ‘Father,’ the son told him, ‘I have sinned against heaven and against you. I do not deserve to be called your son anymore.’”

²² "The father told his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best--and put it on him and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let's eat and begin to celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and has come to life again. He was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now, his older son was out in the field. As he was coming in and approaching the house--he heard music and dancing! ²⁶ After he called one of the servants, he asked what was going on.

²⁷ "'Your brother has come home,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "Then he became angry and would not go in. So his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'All these years I've been working like a slave for you and have never disobeyed a command of yours, but you never gave me even a little goat to celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came back, who devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ "'Son,' the father said to him, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead and has come to life. He was lost and has been found.'"

Benefit from the Sermon: Go to our website; subscribe to our podcast; or request a cd copy; then (1) read / listen; (2) think about it; (3) apply it; and (4) share it!

↑ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition: L: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Our ♦Prayer List, ♦Congregational Health Statistics, ♦Spiritual Growth Info, ♦News, and ♦Activities are in a separate folder called "**Faith in Action.**"

During the Week: Please pray, read, and participate!

PRAYER CONCLUSION:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

OUR GIVING SHOWS OUR TRUST AND THANKS:

This passage is both illogical and true: ^{ESV} Proverbs 11:24
"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want."



⇒ Please sign the Record of Fellowship pad in your pew and pass it on to others.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Christ is present to feed us His body and blood to forgive, strengthen, and preserve us!

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

Self-Examination Questions:

1. Am I sorry for my sins, so I desire – *with God's strength* – to turn from my sins (2 Cor. 7:10-11)?
2. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior (John 3:16)?
3. Do I believe Jesus' words of institution: bread-body, wine-blood, for my forgiveness (1 Co. 10:16; Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Co. 11:23-25)?

Who Should Receive the Supper?

- ⇒ LCMS Members who answered "yes" to the self-examination questions.
- ⇒ Non-Members who have completed our Lord's Supper Preparation packet (*which is available on the wall by our main entrance*) and answered "yes" to the self-exam questions.

Receive at Your Pew: Please notify an usher.

Everyone Not Receiving the Supper: All ages are invited to come forward for a *spoken* blessing!

↑ **SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR** (Martin Luther's First and Second Questions and Answers):

- L: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**
- L: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
- C: **These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (LSB Service Builder):

- P: O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the forgiveness of sins.
- C: **Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins,**
- P: and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- A: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

- L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- A: **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 [debts], as we forgive those who trespass against us [our debtors]; 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.**

JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

- L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI / THE PEACE OF THE LORD:

- L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
C: **Amen.**

HYMN: "Lamb of God" LSB 550, st. 1

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ↓

10:45 Staffed Nursery – Please pick-up your children and bring them forward for a spoken blessing!

LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION and DISMISSAL:

- ⇒ Before Receiving: **Remember** the source of Jesus' body and blood (make the sign of the cross).
- ⇒ Receive the Supper: **Bread**—unleavened; Jesus—without sin. **Wine**—chalice or individual cups (center cups are alcohol removed wine). **Benefit**—we are forgiven through Jesus!
- ⇒ After the Dismissal: **Say "Amen"** to receive the blessing! **Return** with forgiveness—joy!

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION:
 "Return, O Wanderer, Return" TLH 280, sts. 1, 2, 4
 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary" TLH 276, sts. 1-4

1. Return, O wanderer, return
 And seek an injured Father's face.
 Those warm desires that in thee burn
 Were kindled by reclaiming grace.
2. Return, O wanderer, return
 And seek a Father's melting heart,
 His pitying eyes thy grief discern,
 His hand shall heal thine inward smart.

4. Return, O wanderer, return
 And wipe away the falling tear;
 'Tis God who says, "No longer mourn";
 'Tis Mercy's voice invites thee near.

+++++

1. "Come unto Me, ye weary,
 And I will give you rest."
 O blessed voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to hearts opprest!
 It tells of benediction,
 Of pardon, grace, and peace,
 Of joy that hath no ending,
 Of love which cannot cease.
2. "Come unto Me, ye wanderers;
 And I will give you light."
 O loving voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to cheer the night!
 Our hearts were filled with sadness,
 And we had lost our way;
 But Thou hast brought us gladness
 And songs at break of day.
3. "Come unto Me, ye fainting,
 And I will give you life."
 O cheering voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to aid our strife!
 The Foe is stern and eager,
 The fight is fierce and long;

But Thou hast made us mighty
 And stronger than the strong.

4. "And whosoever cometh,
 I will not cast him out."
 O patient love of Jesus,
 Which drives away our doubt,
 Which, though we be unworthy
 Of love so great and free,
 Invites us very sinners
 To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

↑ POST-COMMUNION COLLECT / PRAYER:

L: Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:
 "The Savior Calls; Let Every Ear" TLH 281, vv. 1, 4, 5

1. The Savior calls; let every ear
 Attend the heavenly sound.
 Ye doubting souls, dismiss your fear;
 Hope smiles reviving round.
4. Ye sinners, come, 'tis Mercy's voice;
 The gracious call obey;
 Mercy invites to heavenly joys,
 And can you yet delay?
5. Dear Savior, draw reluctant hearts;
 To Thee let sinners fly
 And take the bliss Thy love imparts
 And drink and never die.

BENEDICTION / BLESSING:

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: **Amen.** ↓

(Announcements – If you have one to share, please come forward at this time!)

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Please remain seated; read, think, and pray about this component of today's service:

1. **SERMON:** "In which of the 4 places in life do you find yourself this very day?"

JOIN US TODAY:

- ⇒ **Prayer** – *After Each Sunday Service:*
 - ✓ You're invited to gather near the Altar!
 - ✓ Today's Prayer Partner: Jerry Huttner (10:45). "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16a NIV).
- ⇒ **Refreshments** (9:10-9:30): Join us down the hall for coffee, juice, bakery, and more!
- ⇒ **Bible Classes, Sunday School, and Nursery** (9:30-10:30): Join us and be blessed through God's Holy Word!

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

PS: Ps. 119:129-136 **OT:** Selections from 1 Samuel 17:32-51; **EP:** Ephesians 6:10-20; **GOS:** Matthew 7:15-20

This Week:

- Use your Faith in Action folder to pray, be informed, serve, and participate.
- Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus; invite them to attend with you.
- **Church Picnic, Sunday, August 30 at 1:00**
 - Everyone is welcome – Plan to attend; invite someone to come with you!
 - Young People – Bring your friends!
 - Kids – We plan to have a bounce house; come and bounce!
 - Corn Hole Players – Let's have a tournament!
- *Thanks to Eileen Kovach for being our Picnic Leader!*
 - Please ask Eileen how you could help!
 - **Signup on the Food / Help sheets on a table in the Narthex!**
 - Pray for good weather!
- Supporting God's work at and through Bethlehem:
 - Your faithful giving is needed and appreciated!
 - Please assess what you receive versus what you give; has your receiving increased; is God leading you to increase your giving?

Thanks for Serving on August 23

Leader: Dr. Phillip Giessler
Pastoral Assts.: Todd Booth, Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw, Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, Mike Martinez, Brian Zeleznikar
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Angie Rohman
Candles: Paul Martens, Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Jerry Huttner, Angie Rohman

8:00 Service

Ushers: Jim Cannonie, Ray Klesch, Ed Wasseen
Lord's Supper: Tim Chilton
Prayer Partner:

9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

9:30 Classes

Youth Teacher: Todd Booth
S.S. Teacher: Donna Pendley
S.S. Helper: We need You: _____
Nursery: We need You: _____

10:45 Service

Ushers: Terry Tomasch, Matt Fischler, Brian Zeleznikar
Nursery: Angie Zeleznikar
Lord's Supper: Paul Martens
Prayer Partner: Jerry Huttner

Thanks for Serving on August 30

Leader: Pastor Robert Green
Pastoral Assts.: Todd Booth, Alan Carlson, Ray Dmytriw, Matt Hlavacek, Jerry Huttner, Mike Martinez, Brian Zeleznikar
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Angie Rohman
Candles: Paul Martens, Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Nancy Huttner

8:00 Service

Ushers: Jim Cannonie, Ray Klesch, Ed Wasseen
Lord's Supper: Tim Chilton
Prayer Partner: Dee Kaderbek

9:10 Refreshments

Miriam Engleman, Doris Chmielewski

9:30 Classes

Youth Teacher: _____
S.S. Teacher: Todd Booth
S.S. Helper: Jeanette De Simone
Nursery: We need You: _____

10:45 Service

Ushers: Terry Tomasch, Matt Fischler, Brian Zeleznikar
Nursery: We need You: _____
Lord's Supper: Paul Martens
Prayer Partner: Brian Zeleznikar

ABOUT US:

- + **Beliefs:** We believe the Bible is true and trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- + **Assurance:** We want everyone to be certain of God's forgiveness through Jesus!
- + **Growth:** We want everyone to understand the Bible and live according to it!
- + **Children:** Bibles (center pew racks); Bags (worship entrance); Nursery (sometimes staffed).
- + **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the narthex.
- + **Lord's Supper:** Normally offered on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of each month.
- + **Congregation:** Find out more by taking a Visitor Information packet.
- + **Podcast:** Listen to our sermons on your phone or tablet: "Benefit from the Bible"
- + **Schedule:** **Sundays** – Service 8:00; Refreshments 9:10; Classes 9:30; Service 10:45
Mondays – Service 7 PM (except *Advent and Lent*, see the "Join Us" brochure for the details)
- + **Join Us:** Keep attending and tell the pastor of your interest to join.

How can we help you?
Let us know.

See the block below or talk to the Pastor or an Elder after today's service.

CONNECT WITH US:

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com **Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma" **Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00 **Kathy Green:** Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center: Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00 **Tricia Wise:** ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green: Pastor@blc7500.com; 440-292-5915 **Church Body:** lcms.org **District:** oh.lcms.org