

# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Wednesday, December 9, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

Second Wednesday in Advent – 2015

**Series: “Come” to Bethlehem with Micah the Prophet!**



## **Sermon: The True Christmas “Rush”!**

Micah 2:12-13

**Learn About Us:** Visitors – Take a “Visitor Information” packet (near our Main Entrance).

### **Benefit from this Service:**

- + Use this folder to guide you; please participate and benefit: L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All
- + Today’s service is Vespers (Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, 229-234)

### **SERVICE BEGINNING:**

1. **Bell:** Candle lighting. Please be seated.
2. **Thanks For Putting Christ First:** By attending!

### **↑ PSALM VERSES** (Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1):

- L: O Lord, open my lips,
- C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

- L: Hurry, O God, to deliver me;
- C: **hurry to help me, O Lord.**
- A: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L: Praise to You, O Christ,
- C: **Our King who comes to save us.**

**HYMN: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”**  
LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne’er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David’s Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

**ADVENT RESPONSORY:**

L: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,

**C: When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.**

L: In His day Judah will be saved,

**C: And Israel will dwell securely.**

**A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

L: This is the name by which He will be called:

**C: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**SALUTATION and PRAYER:**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: *Let us pray.* Dear Father, You can see all things, You know that we tend to rush around in pursuit of *temporal* things – *which are here today and gone tomorrow*, so we ask You to lift our eyes from this fleeting world to our eternal home with You, so that we stay focused on what is most important; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.** ↓

**SERMON HYMN – Part 1: “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”**  
LSB 710, st. 1

- 1 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS & SERMON:**

The True Christmas “Rush”!  
Micah 2:12-13     See Today’s Insert

**SERMON HYMN – Part 2: “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”**  
LSB 710, sts. 2-5

- 2 My soul He doth restore again  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E’en for His own name’s sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God’s house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

**OFFERING:** *Thanks for giving generously!*

⇒ **“Away in a Manger”**

⇒ Please record your Name and Attendance on the **yellow slip** – *Thanks for attending!*

**↑ KYRIE and LORD’S PRAYER:**

L: Let us pray:

L: *O Lord,* C: **have mercy.**

L: *O Christ,* C: **have mercy.**

L: *O Lord,* C: **have mercy.**

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

**PRAYERS:**

After each petition:

L: Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C: And let my cry come to You.**

1. **For our obsession with temporal things, turn our hearts to what is eternal.**

2. **For our desire to go our own way, turn our hearts to follow the Good Shepherd.**

3. **For our fear of talking to others about Jesus, strengthen us to live and speak the Truth.**

Conclusion:

L: We trust O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**11:00 LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER:**

L: We pray together:

**A: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me (Mt. 18:10), that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**7:00 LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER:**

L: We pray together:

**A: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me (Mt. 18:10), that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**C: Amen. ↓**

**CLOSING HYMN and ✠ CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:**  
**“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711**

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be; ➡

You have mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.

- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.

#### Thanks for Serving:

- ✓ Preacher / Teacher: Dr. Phillip Giessler
- ✓ Leader: Pastor Robert Green
- ✓ Smart Recorder: Kathy Green; Eileen Kovach
- ✓ Ushers: Thanks

#### Free Meals on These Advent Wednesdays:

- ✓ December 2, 9, and 16
- ✓ Both at Noon and 6 PM
- ✓ Everyone is welcome!

*Thanks to all who are providing the free meals!*

#### Our Advent and Christmas Schedule

Please Join Us:

#### CONNECT WITH US:

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"  
**Church Office:** Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30  
**Childcare Center:** Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00  
**Pastor Green:** [Pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:Pastor@blc7500.com); 440-292-5915

**Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"  
**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230  
**Tricia Wise:** [ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com](mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com); 440-884-0430  
**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)

#### Sunday, 12/13 at 8:00 & 10:45

➔ [Sermon:](#) "Did You Expect Ease or Truth?" Luke 7:18-28

#### Wednesday, 12/16 at 11 & 7 (Meals 12 & 6)

➔ [Sermon:](#) "The Best Christmas Gift—'Rest'!" Micah 4:1-13 (7:18-19)

#### Sunday, 12/20 at 8:00 & 10:45

➔ [Sermon:](#) "Do You Believe the Impossible?" Luke 1:39-45

#### Thursday, 12/24, Christmas Eve at 6 PM

➔ [Sermon:](#) "Has God's Love in Christ Transformed Your Life?" Titus 2:11-14

#### Friday, 12/25, Christmas Day at 10 AM

➔ [Sermon:](#) "A Beautiful Picture of God Saving Us!" Titus 3:4-7

#### Sunday, 12/27 at 10 AM – ONE Service, NO Bible Class or Sunday School

➔ [Sermon:](#) "The Newborn King Is Now Victorious and Reigning!" Revelation 1:1-6

#### Thursday, 12/31, New Year's Eve at 7 PM

➔ [Sermon:](#) "Let Us Enter 2016 with a Heart of Wisdom!" Psalm 90:1-12

#### 2016:

Sunday, 1/3 at 8:00 & 10:45

Monday, 1/4 at 7 PM

#### Advent—Christmas Symbols at Bethlehem (*may our decorating point others to the Christ of Christmas*):

- **Wreaths:** Shaped like the crown of thorns; symbolizes eternal life – a circle has no beginning or ending!
- **Tree:** It points toward heaven; its evergreen color symbolizes eternal life!
- **Lights:** In the midst of the darkness of sin, Jesus is the True Light of the world!

*Thanks to all who helped with our decorating for Christmas!*