

# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Wednesday, December 16, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

Third Wednesday in Advent – 2015

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



## **Sermon: The Best Christmas Gift—“Rest”!**

Micah 4:1-13 (7:18-19)

**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.

**OPENING HYMN: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"**

Words: LSB 334, sts. 1, 3, 5    Tune: TLH 58

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.
- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

**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 in heaven, *always able to hear and answer*, You know we are struggling in our relationships with You and others, also in our bodies and in our concerns for safety and the eternal salvation of others. So we ask You to powerfully intervene in our lives, so we have Your blessings of peace and rest; 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: "Hail, O Source of Every Blessing"**    LSB 409, st. 3

- 3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!  
Gentiles now their off'rings bring,  
In Your temples seek Your favor,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
Live devoted to Your praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
Grateful anthems ever raise.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS & SERMON:**

The Best Christmas Gift—"Rest"  
Micah 4:1-13 (7:18-19)    See Today's Insert

**SERMON HYMN – Part 2: "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"**    LSB 915, sts. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Today Your 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,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your 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 giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

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

⇒ "What Child is This"

⇒ 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:**

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.

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

1. *For our concern about God's gift of forgiveness, let us rest in Jesus!*

After each petition:

L: Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

2. *For our worry over things that are out of our control, let us pray for rest!*
3. *For all broken relationships, let us seek God's help in restoring them!*
4. *For our spiritual concern about others, let us pray, share God's Word, and invite them!*

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:**  
**"A Great and Mighty Wonder"**

LSB 383, sts. 1, 2, 4

- 1 A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure! ➔

**Refrain: Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
"To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!"**

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. **Refrain**
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth' em,  
The Savior and the Lord. **Refrain**

#### Thanks for Serving:

- ✓ Preacher / Teacher: Dr. Phillip Giessler
- ✓ Leader: Pastor Robert Green
- ✓ Smart Recorder: Kathy G.; Hannah H.
- ✓ Ushers

#### Free Meals on 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:

**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**

#### 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)

**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!