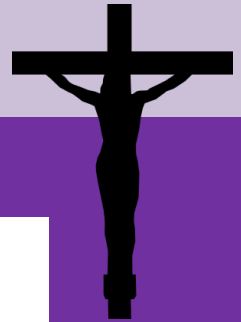


Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Teaching God's Word for our temporal and eternal benefit!



Services: Wednesday, April 5 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Sixth Wednesday of Lent – 2017



Sermon – What were the Perspectives of the Two Criminals on Jesus?

L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All

Today's service is **Vespers** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 229-234).

PREPARATION:

1. **Bell:** Candle lighting. Please be seated.
2. **Visitors:** Please take a Visitor Packet and introduce yourself to the pastor!

↑ 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: **Lamb of our salvation.**

OPENING HYMN:

LSB 451, sts. 1-2

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

LENT RESPONSORY:

L: Deliver me, O Lord, my God,
C: for You are the God of my salvation.
 L: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust,
C: leave me not, O Lord, my God.
 L: Deliver me, O Lord, my God,
C: for You are the God of my salvation.
A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
 L: Rescue me from my enemies,
C: Protect me from those who rise against me.

SALUTATION and PRAYER:

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
 L: *Let us pray.* Dearest Jesus, as You were bearing all sins and all eternal punishment, You assured the repentant criminal, *who was sorry and believing in You*, that he would be in paradise; therefore, grant us true repentance and blessed assurance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen. ↓

SERMON HYMN – Part 1: LSB 702, sts. 1-2*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,
 Thou Lamb of Calvary,
 Savior divine.
 Now hear me while I pray;
 Take all my guilt away;
 O let me from this day
 Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart
 Strength to my fainting heart;
 My zeal inspire!
 As Thou hast died for me,
 Oh, may my love to Thee
 Pure, warm, and changeless be,
 A living fire!

**SERMON: TWO ROBBERS:
*Eternal Punishment
 Eternal Paradise***

Luke 23:32, 33
 Matthew 27: 44
 Luke 23:33, 39-43

*See today's Sermon insert!***SERMON HYMN – Part 2: LSB 702, sts. 3-4***My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
 And griefs around me spread,
 Be Thou my guide;
 Bid darkness turn to day,
 Wipe sorrow's tears away,
 Nor let me ever stray
 From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
 When death's cold, sullen stream
 Shall o'er me roll,
 Blest Savior, then, in love,
 Fear and distrust remove;
 O bear me safe above,
 A ransomed soul!

OFFERING: *Let us honor the Lord!*

Jesus lived, suffered, and died to save us; let us honor Him with our giving!

- ⇒ Offertory
 ⇒ Please complete your attendance slip!

↑ BIDDING PRAYER:

- R: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:
 L: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of

Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:

L: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

L: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially [name], our President; the Congress of the United States; [name], our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free

those in bondage, and grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel:

L: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

L: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

L: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

R: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously

grant them such things as are needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

L: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

R: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

L: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

R: Finally, let us pray for all things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

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

CLOSING HYMN and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:

LSB 451, sts. 3-4

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

- 3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.
- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Free Food and Fellowship

✦ Today is the final Wednesday at 12 & 6; *skip your own preparation and gather with us!*

Upcoming Sermons

Palm Sunday, 4/9 at 8:00 & 10:45

Holy Thursday, 4/13 at 11 & 7

Good Friday, 4/14 at 11 & 7

Easter Sunday, 4/16 at 7:00 & 10:45
(breakfast at 8:30; classes at 9:30)

CONNECT WITH US

Website: 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; 440-292-5915

Podcast: "Benefit from the Bible"

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Tricia Wise: ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com; 440-884-0430

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org