

Second Wednesday in Lent – 2025

Wednesday, March 12 at 11 am & 7 pm

Christ, the Life of All the Living



Text: LSB 420 and NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends, this sermon focuses on the popular Lenten hymn: **Christ, the Life of All the Living**. As I read and comment on the words, let us be filled with gratitude for Jesus' †obedient, †loving, and †excruciating work to save us from our sins and open the way to heaven.

1. **Christ, the Life of All the Living:** This stanza *summarizes* the work Jesus did to save us:
 - a. **Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, Thyself for me once giving, To the darkest depths of woe:** // The Father designed the world, *then the Son created it – “All things came into being through Him [the Son, who was with the Father before creation]” (John 1:3)*. Then, *due to our sin*: The Son of God put on flesh to defeat death – *for our eternal benefit!*
 - b. **Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit, I eternal life inherit.** // Jesus, *the Christ*, obediently entered great suffering and death – *“He Himself bore our sins in His*

body on the cross” (1 Pet. 2:24), so that we – *by grace through faith* – could receive the gift of eternal life!

- c. **Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.** // Those words conclude stanzas 1-6. Paul wrote: “...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57). *Yes, so let us give Jesus 1 million expressions of thanks!*

2. Christ Took Much on Himself to Deliver Us:

- a. **Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee, Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!** // Jesus, though sinless and innocent – *and able to escape at any moment*, permitted Himself to be bound and beaten!
- b. **Thus, didst Thou my soul deliver, From the bonds of sin forever.** // Our sins put us in bondage, so Jesus was “delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:1). *Let us be thankful!*

3. Christ Did His Work Alone:

- a. **Thou hast borne the smiting only, That my wounds might all be whole; Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;** // We were helpless, *so Jesus did everything for our salvation*; He said: “I have trodden the wine trough alone” (Isa. 63:3).
- b. **Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.** // The Bible says that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...” (Gal. 3:13). Since we cursed ourselves, *a severe penalty was required*. Amazingly, Jesus bore our curse to open the way of eternal blessing! *Let us honor Him!*

4. Christ Permitted Others to Greatly Abuse Him:

- a. **Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn, And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne, // THINK** – The Son of God, *the source of life*, permitted those cruel Roman Soldiers to ▶mock Him as a false king and ▶drive those sharp thorns into His holy head.
- b. **That as Thine Thou mightest own me, And with heav'nly glory crown me. //** Jesus perfectly obeyed His Father, He prayed – “not My will, but Yours be done” (Lk. 22:42). *May our hearts and lives keep showing forth much sincere thanksgiving!*

5. Christ Absorbed the Fists and False Accusations:

- a. **Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free; Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security; //** The great exchange: We sinned, *but He was bruised*; we are guilty, *but He was accused* – “by His wounds you were healed” (1Pe. 2:24).
- b. **Comfortless Thy soul did languish, Me to comfort in my anguish. //** Jesus received our sins – “...the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him” (Isa. 53:6). Now, *in Him*, we have comfort and peace – *TYSM!*

6. Christ Bore the Horror of Crucifixion without Complaint:

- a. **Thou hast suffered great affliction, And hast borne it patiently, Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me; //** 700 years before the Son of God put on flesh, *the LORD told us what would happen to Jesus*: “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open

His mouth..." (Isa. 53:7). So that we, *through Jesus*, would be AT ONE / MADE RIGHT with God.

- b. **Thou didst choose to be tormented, That my doom should be prevented.** // **THINK** – Jesus was completely innocent, *so His flogging and crucifixion were torture!* Jesus endured it all so that we could ▶be gifted with righteousness and ▶escape the doom we deserved! *Let us gladly tell others what Christ has done for us and all!*

7. **Christ Did It All; He Is Enough:**

- a. **Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore, For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore, Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,** // Those words are a **horrible** and yet a **beautiful** summary of Jesus' finished work – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).
- b. **For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.** // Once Jesus had completed all His work, He received a drink and then cried out: ***It has been paid in full!*** He fully paid the horrible penalty for everyone! Therefore, let us ▶trust in Him alone for eternal life, ▶thank Him with our words and deeds, and ▶encourage others to repent and believe!

Let Us Pray: Dearest Jesus, *thousand, thousand thanks from us to Thee – now and forevermore!*

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230