



**Bethlehem Parma (LCMS)**

BIBLICAL • UNDERSTANDABLE • RELEVANT

TRADITIONAL • FRIENDLY • CARING

**2026**

**Saturday, 2/21 at 4:00**

**Sunday, 2/22 at 9:00**

## A Life Turned Around – Part 3: Who Turns the Heart – Us or God?

Church Year: First Sunday in Lent | Divine Service – Setting Three: LSB 184-202

**Note:** For this service, you can use this folder, or pages 184-202 in a Lutheran Service Book

### WELCOME:

- 😊 **Visitors:** *Welcome! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us how we can help!*
- 😊 **Prayer Request:** *Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).*
- 😊 **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).*
- 😊 **All Children:** *Children’s Message (join us).*
- 😊 **Phone:** *Please put on silent.*
- 😊 **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in the Narthex.*
- 😊 **Service Folder:** *Available on your smartphone: [www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder](http://www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder)*
- 😊 **Worship From Your Car:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).*

### BELL and CANDLELIGHTING – Please be seated!

**PRELUDE:** *We listen in silence...*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God      M. Luther/E. Whitsett

### ↑ CONFESION AND ABSOLUTION

- L: In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.      *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, begging Him in the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the LORD.      *[Heb. 10:22]*

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**      *Ps. 124:8*

L: ⚡ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD.

C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**      *Ps. 32:5*

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

L: O almighty God, merciful Father,

A: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

L: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead *[in the place of]* and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.      *[John 20:19-23]*

C: **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Saturday** ➔ Hymn

**Sunday** ➔ Entrance Hymn and Procession

### HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

See the words below / TLH 658 / LSB 657

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
    A sword and shield victorious;  
    He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
        And wins salvation glorious.  
    The old satanic foe  
    Has sworn to work us woe.  
        With craft and dreadful might  
        He arms himself to fight.  
    On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.  
    We would be lost, rejected.  
    But now a champion comes to fight,  
        Whom God Himself elected.  
    You ask who this may be?  
    The Lord of hosts is He,  
        Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
        God's only Son, adored.  
    He holds the field victorious.

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**Saturday ➔ KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy**      *Mark 10:47*

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

**Sunday ➔ KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy**      *Mk 10:47*  
**Sung by all**      **LSB 186**

Lord, have mer – cy up – on us.  
Christ, have mer – cy up – on us.  
Lord, have mer – cy up – on us.

### SALUTATION and COLLECT:

L: The LORD be with you.      *2 Timothy 4:22*  
C: **And with thy spirit.**

L: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may keep walking through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**  Children! Please come forward!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** Do We Need Physical Eyes that See to Put These Numbers in Order?

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Genesis 3:1-21      *NAS-20*  
***The Fall of Mankind***

**The Reading...**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**GRADUAL:** Hebrews 12:2      *ESV*

L: O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
C: **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
L: who for the joy that was set before him  
C: **endured the cross, despising the shame,**  
L: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**EPISTLE:** Romans 5:12-19      *NAS-20*  
***Results of Justification***

<sup>12</sup> ...just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not counted against *anyone* when there is no law.  
<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the violation *committed* by Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the gracious gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by

the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. <sup>16</sup>The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment *arose* from one *offense*, resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the gracious gift *arose* from many offenses, resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup>For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind. <sup>19</sup>For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

↑ **HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:1-11                    **NAS-20**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O LORD.**

### *The Temptation of Jesus*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” <sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took Him along into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and he said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written: ‘HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS ORDERS CONCERNING YOU’;

and ‘ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL LIFT YOU UP, SO THAT YOU DO NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written: ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him along to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to serve Him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED:** See back of either hymnal

**HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

See the words below / TLH 658 / LSB 657

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage.  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever! ↓

## SERMON: Who Turns the Heart – Us or God?

1. **Shattering a Common Myth:** Since I can **reject Christ**, I can also **choose Christ**. That is logical, *but not Biblical*.

- a. Mental and Physical:
- b. Spiritual:
- c. Let's Put the Bible Over our Logic:
  - i. Spiritual Blindness: **1 Corinthians 2:14** “a natural [worldly-minded] person does **not** accept the things of the Spirit of God, **[WHY NOT?]** for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned [evaluated].”
  - ii. Spiritual Death: **Ephesians 2:1** “...you [Corinthians, before GOD converted you] were dead in your offenses and sins...”
  - iii. Spiritual Enemies: **Romans 8:7** “the mind set on the flesh [on the earthly sphere of existence] is hostile [at least unreceptive] toward God; for it does **not** subject itself [**not** voluntarily submit] to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so...”

2. **Who Is the Heart-Turner?** **Logically**, we think we turn our own hearts, but what does the Bible say?

- a. This Is a Gospel Imperative / Command: **Mark 1:15** [Jesus proclaimed:] “...repent and believe in the gospel.”
- b. Jesus was asked: **John 6:28-29** ... “What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God [to earn our salvation]?” Jesus answered...,

“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him [Jesus] whom He has sent.”

- c. The Beginning of our faith: **Hebrews 12:2** “...**Jesus**, the originator and perfecter of the faith...”
- d. Peter and the apostles preached: **Acts 5:31** “[Jesus] is the one whom God exalted to His right hand..., **[WHY?]** to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”
- e. The Jews – who heard Peter’s explanation about Cornelius and his household – said: **Acts 11:18** ... “Well then, God has also granted to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”
- f. Paul wrote to Timothy: **2 Timothy 2:25** “God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...”

## 3. **How Does Repentance Work?**

- a. Our Part – God’s Part:
- b. The Holy Spirit through the Law and the Gospel:

### Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

### ↑ OFFERTORY: Sung by all Ps. 51:10-12 **LSB 192-193**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. **Amen.**

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

**The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**REQUEST a Prayer:** Complete a **yellow** PRAYER REQUEST card (*available in the Narthex*).

**RENEW Your Request:** Names with a **(3)** must be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person; update Kathy (call: 440-845-2230; text: 440-785-3802).

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

→ **Dan & Stacey:** They live in and manage a co-op: *guidance for the board, and cooperation and harmony among all the residents!*

### Congregation

→ **Mourning:** Comfort and peace to Norma and all mourning the passing of her husband, Bill on 2/18. Funeral arrangements TBA.

→ **Repentance:** As we move through the series, please be completely open and focused to get it, be repentant, and share with others!

→ **Season of Lent:** Dear Jesus, help us to put aside everything to focus on You, journey with You to the cross, and live for You!

→ **Care List:** Helga B, Pat B, Zach B, Doris C, Sandy C, Jim F, Trudy F, Carole G, Esther H, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Cindy T, Mike & Susanna T, Vicki T, Jim V (most are offered regular mailings and visits).

→ **Stephen Ministry:** Blessings to our Stephen Ministers and those who receive their care!

### Temporary Health Issues:

- Cedrick Hilliker (3) bicep: *healing*.
- Matt Hlavacek (3) Lyme disease: *healing*.
- Matt Kussmaul – eye issues: *cont. healing*.

- Frank Murphy (3) pneumonia: *cont. healing*.
- June Russell (3) broken hip: *healing, rehab*.
- Cindy Taress (2) *continued relief, healing*.
- Tami Taylor (2) hospitalized, life support: *comfort, healing; peace for Greg and family*.
- Rand Stender (3) knee: *rehab, stretching*.

### Others

#### Temporary Health Issues:

- Georgy (1) fall: *peace, healing*.
- Jim Allen (1) hip surg 2/19: *healing, rehab*.
- Kimberly Borland (3) *self-care, good health*.
- Richard Browning (2) (father of Michael) bladder, kidney issues: *comfort, healing*.
- Melanie Himmelberger (3) *peace, healing*.
- Virginia Little (3) kidneys: *peace, healing*.
- Bernice Mease (3) kidney cancer: *healing*.
- Linda McKay (3) *cont. peace and healing*.
- Rose Ramos (3) *healing, strength, guidance*.
- Luke Schave (1) *treatment success, healing*.
- Kim Starr (3) cancer, surgery 3/4: *peace*.
- Bethany Transue cancer – liver, abdomen: *peace, comfort; please pray for a miracle!*
- Jim Vrabel (3) surgery: *healing, patience*.

### Celebrate and Give Thanks

#### Physical Birthdays:

2/24 Kathryn Strauss  
2/25 Mariah McMillan  
2/27 Serafina Blaha  
2/27 Susanna Tischler  
2/28 Sandy Crites

#### Spiritual Birthdays:

2/28 Michelle Gilbert  
2/28 Norma Sweeny

#### 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. ▼

## THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREPARATION MUSIC ➔ See the 5 questions...

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Carter

**LORD'S SUPPER:** It is offered to repentant believers to assure them of God's forgiveness. Please prepare to receive by asking yourself **these five questions:**

1. **Bible:** It shows us our sin, tells of Jesus, and calls for repentance. **Do I believe the Bible is true?**
2. **Repentance:** It begins in our hearts and shows in our lives. **Do I desire to turn from my sins?**
3. **Salvation:** It is by grace through faith in Jesus for eternal life. **Am I trusting in Jesus for heaven?**
4. **Supper:** **Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?**
5. **Unity:** We are in harmony with God – based on our belief in His word, and with others – based on our common confession. **Do I know and agree with the teachings of the LCMS** (Lu. Ch. Missouri Synod)?

**Unsure?** Ask for a copy of "The Lord's Supper" brochure and "A Simple Explanation of Christianity."

**The pastor would be glad to talk/meet with you!**

### ↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

L: The Lord be with you. 2 Tim. 4:22

C: **And with thy spirit.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up onto the Lord.** [Col. 3:1]

L: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: **It is meet [proper] and right so to do.**

[Ps. 136]

L: It is truly **meet**, right, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Easter Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and with all the company of heaven we laud

and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Is. 6:3; Matt. 21:9

Hosanna = *save us now* ♦ See below / **LSB 195**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that  
cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### LORD'S PRAYER: See back of either hymnal

L: Let us pray:

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...** Matt. 6:9-13

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25

**PAX DOMINI** ~ *Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

**LSB 198**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

### DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ◆ **If you are ready to receive:** Come forward now.
- ◆ **Receiving at your pew:** Please inform an usher.
- ◆ **Alcohol-Removed Wine:** Center of each tray.
- ◆ **Receive. Go** in peace. **Return** via a side aisle.
- ◆ **Main dismissal:** After everyone has returned.

### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Remembrance

Thalben-Ball

### LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

## ↑ NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Now dismiss

*Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32*

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING:

*Psalm 107:1*

L: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: And His mercy endures forever.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

L: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS:

L: The Lord be with you. 2 Tim. 4:22

C: **And with thy spirit.**

L: Bless we the Lord. [Psalm 103:1]

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION ~ Blessing

*Num. 6:24-26*

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance [face] upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen. ↓

## CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:

Ein' Feste Burg

Martin Luther

## February Newsletter – Available in the Narthex

### Men, Women, Confirmed Youth

#### Will You Serve as an Usher?

- If yes, please sign up in the Narthex.
- Current ushers, we plan to reset the teams in the future, so that each team has at least three. Watch for upcoming changes. Thanks!

## Grief Share Begins – March 3 at 6:30

- Professional, caring, run by BLC members.
- Tuesdays: Arrive between 6:00 and 6:30.
- Opening and 30-minute video, refreshments.
- Group time to listen and/or talk.
- Register – talk to Norma: 216-406-4871

## LENT EVENING MEALS – HELP NEEDED!

*They begin on February 25*

*Thank you to Sue Coufalik for signing up every week! If you can help Sue, sign up in the Narthex! Please join us each week : )*

## Need a Ride?

Are you in need of a ride to church? Contact Don Crites at 909-320-0706

## Schedule: 2/22/26 – 3/1/26

### 2/23 – Monday

6:30 – Youth Confirmation – Timothy Room

### 2/25 – Wednesday

11:00 – Worship Service

Noon – Lunch

6:00 – Supper

7:00 – Worship Service

### 2/26 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

### 2/28 – Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

### 3/1 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Class & Sunday School

### **Thanks For Serving on 2/21/26 & 2/22/26**

**Altar Guild:** Kathy G

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P    Usher: Matt K

Distribution: Mike C

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

Distribution – Matthias M

Ushers: Carl B, Michael B

Acolytes: Carter & Shelby R

Sunday School: Tracy C, Harold/Cedrick

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistant

### **Thanks For Serving on 2/28/26 & 3/1/26**

**Altar Guild:** Nancy B, Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P    Usher: Matt K

Distribution: Mike C

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

Distribution – Harold W

Ushers: Rand S, Nevin S

Acolytes: Noah H, Leo J

Sunday School: Heather H, Harold/Cedrick

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Financial Assistant

### **Numbers From Last Week**

#### **Received God's Gifts – Services:**

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **35**; car: **6**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **66**; car: **0**
- Ash Wednesday – Inside: **77**; car: **1**

#### **Studied God's Word – Classes:**

- Saturday at 3:00: **16**
- Sunday at 10:30: **40**
- Thursday at 10:00: **11**

#### **Weekly Financial Stewardship:**

- Needed: **6,769**
- Received: **15,578**
- Actual YTD: **44,011**
- Budget YTD: **47,383**

Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem! Thanks so much for your faithful and generous giving! We are still a little

behind our budget, but last week's giving was a great blessing! Even though giving might not make sense sometimes, let us follow God's word and trust Him to keep all His amazing promises! The LORD will never fail!



## **A Life Turned Around – Part 4:**

**How Does God Break a Hard Heart? – Wed at 11 & 7**

### **Connect With Us**

► **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://BLC7500.com) ► **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ► **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

**Regular Services:** Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

**Festivals:** Website > Important Links > Festivals

**Studies:** Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

**Church Office:** Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230

**Pastor Green:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)    **District:** [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)