



Bethlehem Parma (LCMS)

BIBLICAL • UNDERSTANDABLE • RELEVANT

TRADITIONAL • FRIENDLY • CARING

2026

Saturday, 3/14 at 4:00

Sunday, 3/15 at 9:00

A Life Turned Around – Part 9

How Is a Sin Infection Like a Physical Infection?

Church Year: Fourth 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*
- ☺ **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... My Song is Love Unknown My Father’s Love to Me*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

↑ CONFESSION 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: *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

See the words below / TLH 245 / LSB 571

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

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. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may ♦heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, ♦give thanks for all Your benefits, and ♦serve You in willing obedience; 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: Resurrection Eggs

Egg 5 – Leather Whip; Egg 6 – Crown of Thorns

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 42:14-16

NAS-20

¹⁴“I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant. ¹⁵“I will lay waste the mountains and hills And wither all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into coastlands And dry up the ponds. ¹⁶“I will lead those who are blind by a way they have not known, In paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them And uneven land into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Note: **TL SB**: “Though He restrained Himself for a long time, nothing can prevent the Lord from keeping His promise to open the way of forgiveness for fallen humankind.”

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: Ephesians 5:8-14

NAS-20

⁸...you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰as you try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Do not participate in the useless deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to

speaking of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴ For this reason it says, "Awake [from spiritual death], sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1, 6-7, 13-17, 34-38 NAS-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

Healing the Man Born Blind

¹ As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from birth.... ⁶ ...He spit on the ground, and made mud from the saliva, and applied the mud to his eyes, ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came back seeing....

Controversy over the Man

¹³ They brought the man who was previously blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath on the day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied mud to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was dissension among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the man who was blind, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." ... ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and yet you are teaching us?" So they put him out.

Jesus Affirms His Deity

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out, and upon finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the

Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered by saying, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." ³⁸ And he said, "I believe, Lord." And he worshipped Him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED: See back of either hymnal 

HYMN: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

See the words below / TLH 342 / LSB 611

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

SERMON: How Is a Sin Infection Like a Physical...?

1. **My Father's Serious Infection:** During the last year or so of his earthly life...
2. **How a Sin Infection Leads to Death:**
James 1:13-16
 - a. Does God tempt us to sin? **13** "No one is to say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot

be tempted by evil, and He Himself **does not** tempt anyone.”

- b. What leads us into sin? **14** “...each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.” // What is lust? Lust is a strong desire...
 - c. What follows an evil form of lust? **15-16** “...when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers *and sisters*.” // What is the problem? ...
3. **A Sin Infection Can Bring On a Physical Infection:** **Psalm 38:3-8** [King David connected his sin with his suffering:] “...There is no health in my bones **because of my sin**....⁵ My wounds grow foul *and* fester **Because of my foolishness**....⁷ For my sides are filled with burning, And there is no healthy part in my flesh. ⁸I feel faint and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart.”
4. **A Sin Infection Described as a Physical Infection:** **Isaiah 1:2, 5-6** ...**the LORD** [said]: “Sons I have raised... have revolted against Me.... From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing healthy in it...”
5. **An Untreated Sin Infection Will Spread:** **1 Corinthians 5:6** “...Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?”
6. **King Jehoram’s Evil, Infection, and Death:** **2 Chronicles 21**
- a. Jehoram became the king of Judah:
 - b. Jehoram’s great evil: **4, 11** “...when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and gathered courage, he killed all his brothers with the sword...

¹¹ Furthermore, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful, and led Judah astray.”

- c. The LORD’s response: **12-15** “...a letter came to him from Elijah... **This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says:** ‘Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat...¹³ ...and have caused Judah... to be unfaithful..., and you have also killed your brothers...¹⁴ behold, **the LORD is going to strike** your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a great plague; ¹⁵ and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness...” // ☹
 - d. The LORD’s action: **16-19** “...**the LORD stirred up... the Philistines and the Arabs**...¹⁷ and they came against Judah... and carried away all the possessions found in the king’s house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz...¹⁸ ...**after all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable sickness**.¹⁹ ...at the end of two years, ...his bowels came out because of his sickness, and he died in great pain.”
7. **What Happens When We Ignore a Sin Infection?**
- a. The LORD said to **Ezekiel: 33:9** “...if you... warn a wicked person to turn from his way **and he does not turn from his way**, he will die for his wrongdoing...”
 - b. We will not escape:

- i. **Hebrews 2:1, 3** “...we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.... how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” // We will not!
- ii. **Hebrews 12:25–26** “...do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if [the Israelites] did not escape when they refused [Moses] who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from [God’s Son] who warns us from heaven.”

8. **What Is the Remedy for a Sin Infection? Repentance!** **Acts 3:19** “...repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...” // **How?** By God’s grace, let us: **hear** God’s word with an open heart, **believe** it is true, **turn** from our sins, **trust** in Jesus for eternal life, and **live** in daily repentance (see part 7 of this series)!

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.
- Nation**
- ➔ **The War Against Iran:** Pray for success for our troops, protection for the Iranian people, and surrender of the Iranian leaders and military.
 - ➔ **US Armed Forces:** *Kohen Berkley, Teagan Dedula, Nick Riviotta, Chris Sala, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeney, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh.*
- Congregation**
- ➔ **Repentance:** Let’s go through the sermons again, apply them in our lives, and share them with whoever is willing to listen.
 - ➔ **Season of Lent:** Dear Jesus, since You lived and died for us, help us to 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:**
 - **Natalia Ford** (1) possibly cancer or a cyst: *proper diagnosis, peace, healing.*
 - **Cedrick Hilliker** (2) *praying for full recovery.*
 - **Matt Hlavacek** (3) Lyme disease: *pray for medicine success and good results soon!*
 - **Noah Hlavacek** (3) fractured thumb: *healing.*
 - **Matt Kusmaul** – eye issues: *cont. healing.*
 - **June Russell** (1) *better care, peace, comfort.*
 - **Cindy Taress** (2) *cont. healing, strength.*
 - **Tami Taylor** (1) *peace, healing, mobility.*

Others

➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**

- **Kim Borland** (2) gut issues: *comfort, healing.*
- **Richard Browning** (3) kidneys: *cont. healing.*
- **Melanie Himmelberger** (3) *peace, healing.*
- **Bernice Mease** (3) kidney cancer: *healing.*
- **Linda McKay** (3) *cont. peace and healing.*
- **Luke Schave** (1) *treatment success, healing.*
- **Kim Starr** (1) cancer surg. 3/4: *cont. healing.*
- **Jim Vrabel** (3) *cont. healing, patience, rehab.*

➔ **Jonah J** (1) Involved in college campus ministry in Chicago, IL: *pray that the Holy Spirit would guide and further that mission.*

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

- 3/18 Jim Jenni
- 3/19 David Rohman
- 3/20 Briar Miller

Spiritual Birthdays:

- 3/19 Kathy Strauss

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

SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN: *Glory Be to Jesus*

See the words below / TLH 158 / LSB 433

- 1 Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood,
From His sacred veins!
- 2 Grace and life eternal, In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!
- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance, Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus,
For our pardon cries.

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: Jesus, Thy
Boundless Love to Me *Setting by John Behnke*

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

↑ **NUNC DIMITTIS** ~ *Now dismiss* **LSB 199**
Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32

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. We give thanks to You, almighty
God, that You have refreshed us through this
salutary [*beneficial*] gift, and we implore You
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward You and
fervent love toward one another; 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:

My Song is Love Unknown *John Ireland*

March Newsletter – Available in the Narthex

Organ Repair

If you are led to help cover the repair cost (\$3,500), include a donation in your offering envelope and note "organ repair." *THANKS!*

Schedule: 3/15/26 – 3/22/26

3/16 – Monday – 5:00 – YC – Timothy Room
7:00 – Leadership Team

3/17 – Tuesday – 6:30 – Grief Share

3/18 – Wednesday

11:00 – Worship Service

Noon – Lunch

1:00 – Sisters of Light

6:00 – Supper

7:00 – Worship Service

3/19 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

3/21 – Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

3/22 – Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Class & Sunday School

Thanks For Serving 3/14/26 & 3/15/26

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K
Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Distribution – Matthias M
Ushers: Rand S, Nevin S

Acolytes: Noah H, Leo J

Sunday School: Stacey J, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistant

Thanks For Serving 3/21/26 & 3/22/26

Altar Guild: Kathy G

Saturday: Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K
Distribution: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P
Distribution – Harold W
Ushers: Rand S, Nevin S
Acolytes: Carter & Shelby R
Sunday School: Tracy C, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistant

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **31**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **59**; car: **1**
- Wednesday – Inside: **61**; car: **0**

Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Sat at 9:00: **16**, 3:00: **14**
- Sunday at 10:30: **50**
- Thursday at 10:00: **8**
- Wednesday at 1:00: **8**

Weekly Financial Stewardship:

- Needed: **6,769**
- Received: **7,895 – THANKS!**
- Actual YTD: **68,283**
- Budget YTD: **67,690**



**This Wednesday, March 18 at 11 & 7: A Life Turned Around – Part 10:
Will Repentance Radically Change Our Thinking and Living?**

Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** BLC7500.com ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

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

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

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

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Festivals: Website > Important Links > Festivals

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

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

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