

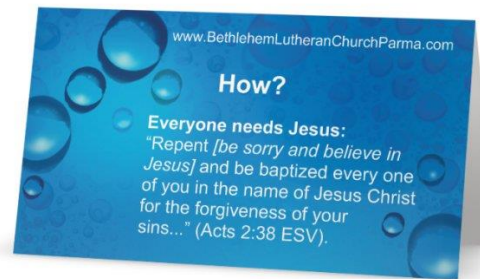
The Bible describes Jesus suffering in our place with these words: **“He is the propitiation for our sins** [that means Jesus received God’s wrath for our sins], **and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”** (1 John 2:2 ESV). So we committed the crime, but JESUS DID THE TIME, *He endured much excruciating pain for us!*

5. **Everyone needs Jesus:** Since our wrongs have CLOSED the way to heaven, we all need Jesus who OPENED the way to heaven. So how do we get Jesus and the benefits of His work? Peter gave this answer: **“Repent** [be sorry and believe in Jesus] **and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”** (Acts 2:38 ESV). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was at work through God’s Word to make many people **aware** of their sins and **sorry** for their sins; **then** the Spirit gave them faith in Jesus; **then, through baptism**, the Spirit gave them God’s gift of forgiveness! For unbelievers,

the Spirit is doing that same work today through the Bible! Even for us, the Spirit is at work through God’s Word to **keep** us aware, **keep** us sorry, **keep** us trusting, and **keep** us sure of God’s forgiveness in Christ!

## Conclusion

Let us pray: Dear Father in heaven, knowing HOW we have forgiveness through Jesus, **let** us be thankful and **let** us use today’s business-size card handout to share the good news of forgiveness through Jesus with others!

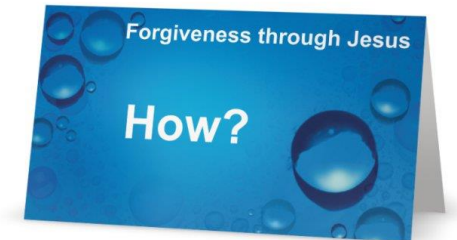


## Connect With Us

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134  
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)  
**Schedule:** See our “Join Us” brochure  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”  
**Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Contact:** 440-845-2230; [pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:pastor@blc7500.com)

(Last Update: 1-18)

# Forgiveness through Jesus



## HOW?

## Introduction

What has Jesus done for us? Over the years people of many ages, *from younger to older*, have given this answer: **Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins.** NOT a bad answer, *especially from a three-year-old*, but **what** does that mean, **how** could a Jewish man dying on a cross nearly 2,000 years ago take away our sins? Today’s sermon will expand on that answer. But first, *let us recall the sad reality of our sins* and second, *let us recall what our sins deserve*; then *we will answer today’s main question.*

## The Sad Reality of Our Sins

1. The Bible declares, “There is **none** righteous, not even **one**...” (Romans 3:10 NAS).
2. The Bible says that “...**all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” (Romans 3:23 ESV).
3. The Bible indicates that even *one sin* is a *most serious matter*; it says that “...whoever keeps the whole law and yet **stumbles in one point**, he has become **guilty of all**” (James 2:10 NAS).

## What Our Sins Deserve

1. The Bible says that “...the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty unpunished*” (Nahum 1:3 NAS).
2. Jesus said that “...those who commit lawlessness [*thus what is contrary to the law*]... will [be] cast... into the furnace of fire...” (Matthew 13:41-42 NAS).
3. The Bible says that “[unbelievers] will be punished with everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9 NIV).

## How Did Jesus Take Away Our Sins?

The following passages are on today’s business-size card handout; please keep one and share the others!

1. **Jesus is the Son of God:** By *God’s revelation*, Peter made this famous statement about Jesus, “**You are the Christ [the Promised Savior], the Son of the living God**” (Matthew 16:16 ESV). If Jesus was only a man, it would be impossible for His life and His death to take away our sins; therefore, He must be – *AND IN FACT HE IS* – the very Son of God!
2. **Jesus lived without sin in our place:** God requires sinless perfection, *but we all have a HUGE problem: WE HAVE SINNED AND WE CANNOT COMPLETELY STOP SINNING*; therefore, God the Son had to take our place and live His whole life **without** ♦disobedience, ♦fault, ♦iniquity, ♦lawlessness, ♦rebellion, ♦transgression, ♦trespass, ♦unbelief, and ♦wickedness! **And Jesus actually did it!** Then, *so that we would know that for sure*, the Bible says that “...in

every respect [Jesus was] **tempted as we are, yet without sin**” (Hebrews 4:15 ESV). So Jesus is OUR SINLESS SUBSTITUTE!

3. **Jesus received our sins:** Since we have all done wrong countless times, *someone must PAY THE PENALTY* – either us or Jesus! Therefore, *out of His great love*, the Bible says that “...**the LORD [God the Father] has laid on him [God the Son] the iniquity [sins, wrongdoings] of us all**” (Isaiah 53:6 ESV). Imagine two people – *one innocent and one guilty*; then, *when the guilty one is being arrested*, the innocent one says, “**I did it, arrest me, I deserve the punishment!**” That is what Jesus did for us, *He willingly took responsibility for our sins!*
4. **Jesus received our punishment:** First, God the Father put our sins on Jesus; then, second, Jesus endured our horrible punishment!