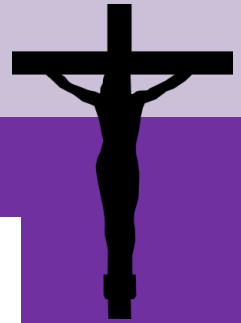


Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Services: Wednesday, March 8 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Second Wednesday of Lent – 2017



Sermon – What was the Perspective of the High Priest 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 (Narthex) and introduce yourself to the pastor!

3. **The Season of Lent:**

- L: Jesus went to the cross for you and me!
C: **Let us give Him thanks!**

↑ **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 531, sts, 1-2

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

- 1 Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor:
Life is given through Thy name.
- 2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven
Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven,
Reconciled are we with God.

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.* Dear Lord Jesus, You were perfectly obedient to the will of the Father, so You allowed people to arrest You, try You, and mistreat You; grant that we eternally benefit from Your finished work; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. ↓

PRE-SERMON HYMN:

LSB 436, sts. 1-2

Go to Dark Gethsemane

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

SERMON and SCRIPTURE READINGS: What was the Perspective of the High Priest on Jesus?

Jesus to Annas:

^{ESV} **John 18:13-14, 19-24** First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said."

²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Jesus to Caiaphas:

^{ESV} **Matthew 26:57-68** Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.

At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of

God, and to rebuild it in three days.”⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.”⁶⁶ What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,⁶⁸ saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

POST-SERMON HYMN: LSB 439, sts. 1, 11-12

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be
spoken? Of what great crime hast Thou to
make confession, What dark transgression?
- 11 But since my strength will nevermore suffice
me, To crucify desires that still entice me,
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me,
And reign within me!
- 12 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be
pleasing; To do Thy will shall be my sole
endeavor, Henceforth forever.

OFFERING: *Let us honor the Lord!*

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

⇒ **Offertory:**

⇒ Please complete your attendance slip!

↑ KYRIE, LORD'S PRAYER, OTHER PRAYERS:

L: Let us pray:

L: *O Lord,* **C: have mercy.**

L: *O Christ,* **C: have mercy.**

L: *O Lord,* **C: have mercy.**

L: Let us pray:

A: Our Father who art in heaven...

L: O Lord, hear our prayer.

C: And let our cry come to You.

L: *Dear Father, we know we have sinned so
much, and yet You love us so much; help us
to be eternally grateful!*

C: Amen.

L: *Dear Jesus, You endured the false
accusations, the beatings, and the death
sentence all for us; fill us with thanksgiving!*

C: Amen.

L: *Dear Holy Spirit, by Your work we have been
united to Jesus and are members of God's
holy family; keep us in the Word, sorry for our
sins, and ever-trusting in Jesus!*

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the
love of God and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with us all.

C: Amen. ↓

CLOSING HYMN and ✠ CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:

LSB 531, sts. 3-4

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

- 3 Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

- 4 **Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing**
 Thou art worthy to receive;
 Highest praises, without ceasing,
 Right it is for us to give.
 Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
 All your noblest anthems raise;
 Help to sing our Savior's merits,
 Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

Free Food and Fellowship

- ✦ Each Wednesday in Lent at 12 & 6; *skip your own preparation and gather with us!*

Upcoming Readings and Sermons

Second Sunday in Lent, 3/12 (and Monday, 3/13): Psalm 121; Gen. 12:1-9; Rom. 4:1-8, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Third Wednesday of Lent, 3/15: What was the Perspective of Pilate on Jesus?

Bible: Luke 3:1; John 18:28-38; Luke 23:2-22; Matthew 27:24-26

- As the ultimate judge of right and wrong in Judea, he found Jesus to be innocent!
- For his own benefit, he saw it as even more important to keep the Jews under control!

Third Sunday in Lent, 3/19 (and Monday, 3/20):

Psalm 95:1-9; Ex. 17:1-7; Rom. 5:1-8; John 4:5-26

Fourth Wednesday of Lent, 3/22: What was the Perspective of Barabbas on Jesus?

Bible: Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:7-15

- He knew he was a murderer who deserved death!
- As he was shocked to be released, are we shocked to be set free from our sins?

Fourth Sunday in Lent, 3/26 (and Monday, 3/27): Psalm 142; Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Fifth Wednesday of Lent, 3/29: What was the Perspective of the Soldiers who Mocked Jesus?

Bible: Matthew 27:26-31; Mark 15:16-20

- Jesus had just been sentenced and scourged; now the soldiers would have their turn!
- They were very brutal men who made fun of Jesus and increased His physical suffering!

Fifth Sunday in Lent, 4/2 (and Monday, 4/3):

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Rom. 8:1-11; John 11:17-27, 38-45

CONNECT WITH US

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com	Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	Address:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office:	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	Kathy Green:	Secretary@blc7500.com ; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center:	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	Tricia Wise:	ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com ; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green:	Pastor@blc7500.com ; 440-292-5915	Church Body:	lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org

Lenten Symbols at Bethlehem:

- ✓ **The Color Purple:** It points to Jesus' passion, His suffering; by His wounds we are healed!
- ✓ **Crown of Thorns:** Jesus is the King of kings, yet He accepted that pain and shame for us!
- ✓ **Large Rugged Cross:** Jesus accepted horrible pain and our sins to open heaven for us!