

HUMAN REJECTION CRUSHED BY DIVINE EXALTATION

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

April 3, 2022

Worship Series: CRUSHED

When someone is devastated or defeated or despondent we speak of him being "crushed." It could be due to some agonizing loss or unrealized dreams. It could be due to carrying a crushingly heavy load of guilt over some past mistake. In a broken world, it is simply a matter of time before we feel crushed. This is why we need Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "lengten," when the days grow longer. For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

THEME FOR THIS SUNDAY: Human Rejection Is Crushed by Divine Exaltation

People often look to the judgment of experts. The opinion of experts can greatly influence the general population. That poses a problem when it comes to Christ. The world's experts and culturally elite generally see little value in Christ and his Word. Thankfully, Christ tells us to expect this. He also reminds us that when it comes to judgments about him and his kingdom, only one opinion matters. God the Father would render the final verdict about Christ and his work when he raised his Son from the dead. This week, we learn to evaluate the world's experts properly. They might see heaven's greatest treasure as trash. Fine. That treasure remains ours for the taking!

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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Hymn: 861 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, you are her one foun -
2 O Lord, let this your lit - tle flock, your name a - lone con -
3 Help us to serve you ev - er - more with hearts both pure and
4 And for your gos - pel let us dare to sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; in you she trusts, be - fore you bows, and waits for
fess - ing, con - tin - ue in your lov - ing care, true u - ni -
low - ly; and may your Word, that light di - vine, shine on in
trea - sure; teach us to bear your bless - ed cross, to find in



your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure, your Church
ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord, and your
splen - dor ho - ly that we re - pent - ance show, in faith
you all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness in joy



shall en - dure though all the world de - cay and all things
sav - ing Word to us e'er pure re - tain; grant that they
ev - er grow; the pow'r of sin de - stroy and e - vils
and dis - tress. Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, let us by



pass a - way. O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
may re - main our on - ly strength and com - fort.
that an - noy. O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
grace par - take of end - less joy and glo - ry.

Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr. Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 156

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



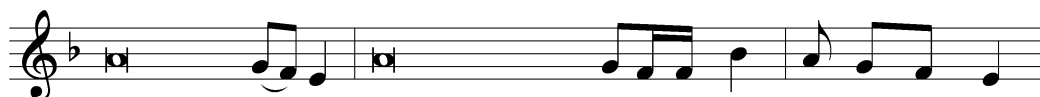
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



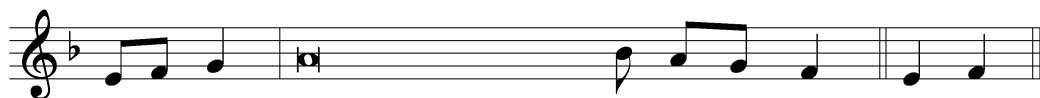
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶This is what the LORD says,
who makes a road through the sea
and a path through mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out the chariot and the horses,
the army and the strong warrior.
They will all lie down together.
They will not get up.
They are extinguished.
Like a wick they go out.

¹⁸Do not remember the former things.
Do not keep thinking about ancient things.
¹⁹Watch, I am about to do a new thing.
Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it?
Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness.
In the wasteland I will make rivers.

²⁰The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,
because I am providing water in the wilderness,
rivers in a parched wasteland,

water for my chosen people to drink.

²¹This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 73B Surely it Is God Who Saves Me



I am always / with you;

You hold me by my / right hand.

You guide me with your / counsel,

And afterward you will take me into / glory.

Whom may I in / heav'n but you?

And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.

My flesh and my / heart may fail,

But God is the strength of my heart and y portion for- / ever.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

And to the Holy / Spirit

As it was in the be- / ginning,

Is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks that he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶in regard to zeal, persecuting the church; in regard to the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

⁷But, whatever things were a profit for me, these things I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. ⁸But even more than that, I consider everything to be a loss because of what is worth far more: knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake, I have lost all things and consider them rubbish, so that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, which comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God by faith. ¹⁰I do this so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹in the hope that in some way I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:22



Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



The stone the builders re - ject - ed has become the cor - ner - stone.

Refrain

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⁹He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. ¹⁰When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed.

¹¹The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. ¹³The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.’

¹⁴“But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them?

¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others.”

When they heard this, they said, “May it never be!”

¹⁷But he looked at them and said, “Then what about this that is written:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?

¹⁸“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls.”

¹⁹That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1	My	hope	is	built	on	noth - ing	less	than	Je - sus'
2	When	dark -	ness	veils	his	love - ly	face,	I	rest
3	His	oath,	his	cov - e -	nant	and	blood	sup -	port
4	When	he	shall	come	with	trum -	pet	sound,	oh, may
									I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ.
Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Special Intercessions

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

Hymn: 914 Christ Is Our Cornerstone



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, on him a - lone we
2 Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we im -
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hal - lowed courts shall
build; with his true saints a - lone the courts of
plore, and may that grace, once giv'n, be with us
ring; our voic - es we will raise the Three in
heav'n are filled. On his great love our hopes we
ev - er - more un - til that day when all the
One to sing and thus pro - claim in joy - ful



Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Latin, c. 8th cent., abr. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789. Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: 923 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,
hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,
bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to
more, feed me till I want no more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–1791

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship, 11:30 Coffee Fellowship, Voters Meeting
4 PM NELHS Easter Concert

Monday: 10:30 AM Bethel Women's Guild

Tuesday: 7 PM Trinity Board of Education

Wednesday: 6:30 PM Lenten Worship and Fellowship

Saturday

8:30 AM Men's Bible Study Fellowship at Utica Auditorium
LWMS Circuit Rally at Zion Clatonia

Sunday: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion, Coffee Fellowship, Choir

Holy Week Worship:

6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Joint Worship at Grace Seward
6:30 PM Good Friday Joint Worship at Bethel York

In our prayers: Rodney Bergmeier who will be having knee replacement surgery.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 79, Sunday School 7, Bible Class 22. Facebook live 7, clicks . Audio/YouTube 15. Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given 1,145.00. Lent: Attendance: 85, FB live 2, clicks 12. Offerings Operating . **To God be the glory!**