



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

*Jesus taught them  
as one who had  
**authority.***

*Mark 1:22*



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PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

## **Worship Service**

*Sunday, January 28, 2018 10:00 a.m.*

### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Theme of the day:** Why follow him? Jesus shows his glory by his triumph over the devil. When he walked this earth for us, he sometimes did that openly for all to see. He still does it just as effectively but in a less public, less obvious way. Just as his victory made manifest his glory then, so it does now. Just as then, so now, everything is accomplished through his Word.

## **WELCOME**

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Families** are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

## **OUR MISSION**

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

**OPENING HYMN: # 353 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

♪ **Praise the one who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the one who frees the pris’ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel,  
Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands  
With the Father’s word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the one who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water  
To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the one who makes us one.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

**Confession of Sins**

M: The apostle John tells us in his first letter, “If we claim to be  
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

**C: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**

*Silence to examine yourself and reflect on God’s Word.*

**Just As I Am, without One Plea (CW 397)**

♪ **Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bidd’st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**M:** Let us confess, then, our sins to God our Father.

**C: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and impure. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and action. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your punishment both in this life and in the life to come. For the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and guide us so that we may delight in your holy will and that we may walk forever in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

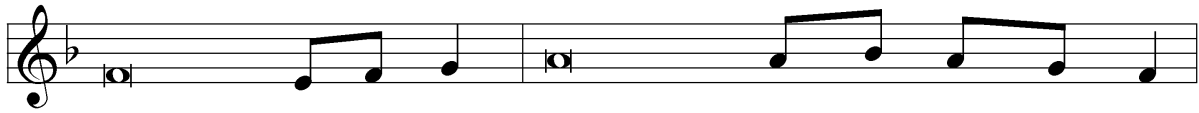
**M:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and through His love for his Son, he forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called pastor of this church, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

# GLORY BE TO GOD

## *Gloria in Excelsis*



C: 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



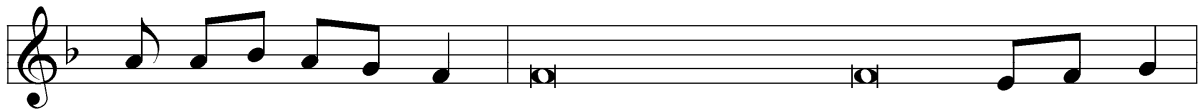
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:**  And also with you.

**M:** Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  Amen.

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

### First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (page 189)

<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. <sup>20</sup> But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

### Psalm of the Day: Psalm 1

#### *Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

#### *Psalm tone*



♪ Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.

### *Refrain*

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment\*,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous\*,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.

### *Refrain*

### **Verse of the Day:**

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia. (*Luke 4:18*)

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Second Lesson: Mark 1:21-28 (p. 990)**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

## **Hymn: # 491 “O Master of the Loving Heart”**

♪ O Master of the loving heart,  
The friend of all in need,  
We pray that we may be like you  
In thought and word and deed.

Your days were full of kindly acts;  
Your speech was true and plain;  
Of those who ever sought you, Lord,  
None came to you in vain.

Your face was warm with sympathy;  
Your hand God’s strength revealed;  
Who saw your face or felt your touch  
Were comforted and healed.

Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord,  
So joyous, free, and true,  
That all your children, ev’rywhere,  
Be drawn by us to you.



**Sermon: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (p. 1133)**

**Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But the man who loves God is known by God.**

**<sup>4</sup> So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.**

**<sup>7</sup> But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.**

**<sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?**

**<sup>11</sup> So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.**

### **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.**

## **Hymn: # 402 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

♪ **My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

**While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide.  
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.**

**When ends life’s transient dream,  
When death’s cold, sullen stream  
Shall o’er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!**

## **Offering**

### **Prayer of the Church**

#### **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.**

**M: 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.**

**C. ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## Hymn: # 451 “Precious Lord, Take my Hand”

♪ Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When the darkness appears And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** for today’s service were given by Terry and Chris Oberg in appreciation for the Lord’s blessings.

**Thank You:** To all who have been donating to our *Good Samaritan Transitional Shelter*. It is one more way you let your light shine in our community.

## THIS WEEK

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

## COMING UP

**ASH WEDNESDAY** (Beginning of Lent), Wednesday,  
February 14, 7:00 p.m.

