



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

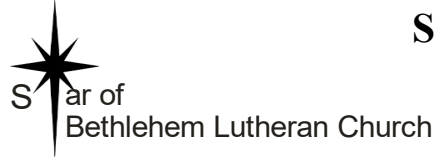
*Believe in the Lord Jesus,  
and you will be saved.*



*Acts 16:31*



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:00 a.m.*

### First Sunday after the Epiphany THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

**Theme of the day:** The long-expected Christ has arrived; the waiting is over as the Son of David is anointed. The Father's approval sounds from heaven and book-ends the season of Epiphany, when with the Holy Spirit and with power it thunders again on the Mount of Transfiguration as the Son is revealed in glory.

## 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: # 294 “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”**

♪ **Baptized into your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among your saints, your chosen host,  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.  
Your Spirit now shall live within.**

**My loving Father, there you took me  
To be henceforth your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, there you let me  
The fruit of all your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat’ning clouds around I see.**

**My faithful God, you fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
Oh, cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.**

**All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely  
And help me your own child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but yours alone.**

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **In the name of the Triune God who has given us his  
blessed name through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Amen.**

M: We rejoice to carry the name of our gracious and merciful Lord.

C: **For he has assured us, “Wherever I cause my name to be  
honored, I will come to you and bless you (Exodus 20:24).”**

♪ **All Who Believe and Are Baptized** (CW 299)

**All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption They shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION** (reflecting on our baptisms)

M: You and I were baptized in the name of the Triune God.

**C: Today we reflect on the meaning of our own baptisms,  
considering once again what God has done for us in that  
blessed sacrament.**

M: God's holy Word reminds us that Baptism is not a mere, outward ceremony, but "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)."

**C: Baptism is the vital life of the Christian, for we were "sinners from birth (Psalm 51:5)", and like the rest of fallen mankind, we were by nature objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3)."**

M: But in Baptism, we died, dying to sin and its eternal consequences.

**C: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death (Romans 6:3)."**

M: The Bible also tells us that in Baptism we were born again, being made alive by faith in Jesus.

**C: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Romans 6:4)."**

M: How can the water of Baptism do such wonderful things?

**C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word. So it is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water.**

M: Therefore, what blessings do we receive?

**C: Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

M: Brothers and sisters, be at peace, for “you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus; for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (Galatians 3:26,27).”

**C: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.**

♪ **Song: The Church’s One Foundation (CW 538)**

**The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav’n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, With ev’ry grace endued.**

M: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. (spoken)**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 49:1-6**

**Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you faraway peoples!  
The LORD called me from the womb.**

**When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.**

**<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.**

**He hid me in the shadow of his hand.**

**He made me a polished arrow. He concealed me in his quiver.**

**<sup>3</sup>He said to me, “You are my servant Israel,  
in whom I will display my glory.”**

**<sup>4</sup>But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain.**

**I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.**

**Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD,  
and my reward is with my God.”**

**<sup>5</sup>But now the LORD,**

**who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to turn Jacob back to him,**

so that Israel might be gathered to him,  
 so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD,  
 because my God has been my strength—  
<sup>6</sup>the LORD said:  
 It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant  
 to raise up only the tribes of Jacob  
 and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,  
 so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,  
 so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 2**

*Refrain*

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-  
 lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone*

\*

Why do the nations conspire\*  
 and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
 gather together against the LORD\*  
 and against his Anointed One.

*Refrain*

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;\*  
 the Lord scoffs at them.  
 Then he rebukes them in his anger  
 and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,\*  
 “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

**I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:\*  
He said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”**

**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*

## **SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:25-34**

**<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Instantly all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted with a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we are all here!”**

**<sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling in front of Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**

**<sup>31</sup>They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his home. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds. Without delay, he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup>Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.**

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M: Alleluia. Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you. Alleluia! (*Mark 1:11*)**

**C: ♪Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:4-11**

**<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

**<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

**<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."**

## **HYMN: #89 "To Jordan's River Came our Lord"**

**♪ To Jordan's river came our Lord,  
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light,  
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.**

**The Savior came to be baptized—  
The Son of God in flesh disguised—  
To stand beneath the Father's will  
And all his promises fulfill.**

**As Jesus in the Jordan stood  
And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
Descended on him from above.**

**Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound  
Came God's own voice with words profound:  
"This is my Son," was his decree,  
"The one I love, who pleases me."**

**The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
To save the world and free us all.**



**Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!  
This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.**

### **SERMON: Psalm 2**

<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage? Why do the peoples grumble in vain?  
<sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers join together  
against the LORD and against his Anointed One.  
<sup>3</sup>“Let us tear off their chains and throw off their ropes from us.”  
<sup>4</sup>The one who is seated in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them.  
<sup>5</sup>Then he speaks to them in his anger,  
and in his wrath he terrifies them.  
<sup>6</sup>“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”  
<sup>7</sup>I will proclaim the decree of the LORD.  
He said to me: “You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.  
<sup>8</sup>Ask me,  
and I will give you the nations as your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth as your possession.  
<sup>9</sup>You will smash them with an iron rod.  
You will break them to pieces like pottery.”  
<sup>10</sup>So now, you kings, do what is wise.  
Accept discipline, you judges of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.  
<sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, or he will be angry,  
and you will be destroyed in your way,  
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.  
How blessed are all who take refuge in him.

### **THE THIRD ARTICLE of the APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.  
But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

**HYMN: # 709 “Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert”**

**♪ Christ, your footprints through the desert  
Led to Jordan's flowing stream.  
There you heard the herald crying  
Israel's old prophetic dream:  
"He is coming! He is coming!  
He will cleanse the earth with flame!  
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!  
Wash away your guilt and shame!"**

**Christ, you heard the stirring summons  
As by Jordan's bank you stood;  
Bathed, though sinless, with your people  
In the river's cleansing flood.  
High above, the heavens opened;  
Came the Spirit as a dove;  
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing:  
"See my Son, the one I love!"**

**Son of God, the road from Jordan  
Led at last to Calv'ry's hill.  
There upon the cross forsaken,  
You fulfilled the Father's will.  
Lamb of God, we see you dying,  
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.  
But where death rose up to triumph,  
You began your glorious reign!**

**God, in Baptism you have made us  
One with Christ, our risen Lord;  
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven  
Through the water and the Word.  
Help us hear your urgent summons,**

**Calling us to serve you now.  
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,  
With the cross upon our brow.**

*OFFERING*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.**

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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: #84 "Jesus Shall Reign"**

♪ **Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made  
And endless praises crown his head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Praise his great love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Worship and honor to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by John and Noreen on the occasion of their 59th wedding anniversary.

**PRAYERS** Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's granddaughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Rev. & Mrs. Redlin, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Val Wheelock, Linda Hill & Christina, and Wayne Chapman.

**Please remember to use every opportunity to invite others to make use of our streaming services ([starlutheran.org](http://starlutheran.org)).**