



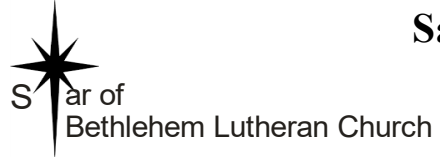
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

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

Mark 1:22



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 31, 2021 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: # 82 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

♪ **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David’s stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest at Jordan’s stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding Guest, In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow’r divine, Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil’s might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Sun and moon shall darkened be;
Stars shall fall, the heav’ns shall flee.
Christ will then like lightning shine;
All will see his glorious sign.
All will then the trumpet hear; All will see the judge appear.
You by all will be confessed, God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

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 AND ABSOLUTION

M: God, through Moses, commanded his people, “The man or woman
who sins against his neighbor, betrays the Lord and will have to
answer for it. He should confess his sin.”

Silence to reflect on the Word of God .

♪ **Song: Jesus Sinners Does Receive (# 304)**

**Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.**

M: We confess our sins both seen and unseen in thought, word,
and action, according to the words of Psalm 51:

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I
know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in
your sight. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash
me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and glad-
ness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face
from my sins and blot out my iniquity. Create in me a pure
heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me!**

M: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and
abounding in love. He gives us this great comfort: “As far as the
east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from
us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has
compassion for those who fear him.” The blood of Jesus Christ,
His Son, cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, as a called servant of
Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

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

♪ **Song: How Great Thou Art (#256:1,3)**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"**

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"**

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.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

¹⁶That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, "Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die."

¹⁷Then the LORD said to me, "They have done well by saying what they said. ¹⁸I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die."

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

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone supposes that he knows something, he does not yet know the way he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, this person has been known by him.

⁴So, concerning the eating of food from idol sacrifices, we know that an idol is not anything real in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵Indeed, even if there are so-called “gods,” whether in the heavens or on earth (as in fact there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶nevertheless for us there is one God—the Father, from whom all things exist and we exist for him—and one Lord—Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist and we exist through him.

⁷However, that knowledge is not in everyone. Instead some, who are still affected by their former habit with the idol, eat the food as something sacrificed to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

⁸Food will not bring us closer to God. We do not lack anything if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. ⁹And be careful that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone sees you, a person who has knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of this man, weak as he is, be emboldened to eat food from an idol sacrifice? ¹¹You see, the weak person is being destroyed by your knowledge—the brother for whose sake Christ died! ¹²And when you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I do not cause my brother to sin.

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!

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!**

SERMON: Mark 1:21-28

On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. ²³Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, ²⁴“What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!”

²⁶The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. ²⁷Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” ²⁸News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

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 # 431 (vv. 1,2,5,6) "I Walk in Danger All the Way"

**♪ I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.**

**I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay;
I pass through trials all the way.**

**I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
He takes my ev'ry fear away When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by his footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.**

**My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When you farewell can gladly say To all your sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.**

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.

HYMN: # 333 "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

**♪ Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through your Word.**

**Abide with your protection Among us, Lord, our Strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl 3's birthday.

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, Wayne Chapman, and Fred Oberg.

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