



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

baptize you with water,

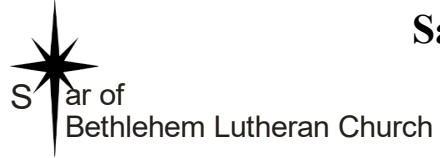


but he will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8



**NORTHWESTERN
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 14, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Epiphany 2 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: # 380 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

♪ **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
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where’er he reigns:
the pris’ners leap, unloosed their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Let ev’ry creature rise and bring
worship and honor to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

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, “In every place where I cause my name
to be remembered, I will come to you and I will bless you.”**

(Exodus 20:24)

♪ **All Who Believe and Are Baptized** *(CW 692:1)*

**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 baptism)

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 the renewal by the Holy Spirit (*Titus 3:5*)."

**C: Baptism is the vital life of the Christian, for "Certainly, I was guilty when I was born (*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 by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in 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. Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ." (*Galatians 3*)

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

♪ **Song: The Church's One Foundation** (CW 855:1,2)

**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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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)*

Please be seated.

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.
²He 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.
³He said to me, "You are my servant Israel,
in whom I will display my glory."
⁴But 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."
⁵But 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—**

⁶the 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

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

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The 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. ⁶John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

HYMN: # 377 “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: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? ²Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? ³Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. ⁷For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. ¹⁰For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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: # 679 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

**♪ God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
that brought me salvation free, lasting to eternity!**

**Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me,
since my baptism did release me
in a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?**

**Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
all your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!**

**Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.**

**There is nothing worth comparing
to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!**

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: # 681 “Christ Is with Me”

♪ **We were buried with him into death,
that as he was raised by God’s glory,
we might walk in life made new by grace;
having died with Christ, we shall live with him.
Christ is with me ev’rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

**I have now been grafted to the vine,
drawing life from roots rich in mercy,
bearing fruit as I abide in him,
fruit forever fresh, glorifying God.
Christ is with me ev’rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

**I have now been crucified with Christ,
I no longer live; Christ lives in me;
now I live by faith in God’s own Son —
one who loved me so, gave himself for me.
Christ is with me ev’rywhere I go;
never to leave me, this I know.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Rich Olerich, Val Wheelock, and Terry’s siblings Linda & Carp.

MISSION OFFERING: For the next six months, our Mission Offering is for St. John Lutheran Church, Tarzana.

THIS WEEK

- Today** Potluck Fellowship, after service
Voters' Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday** ESL, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday** Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
ESL, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday** Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Look! The Lamb of God,



who takes away the sin of the world!

www.starlutheran.org