



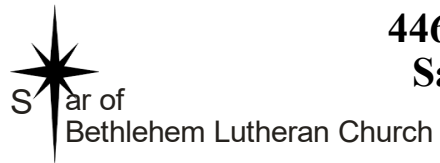
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

# Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1:9



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, January 21, 2024*

*10:00 a.m.*

### The Third Sunday after the EPIPHANY

**Theme of the day:** Jesus shows his glory in the kind of people that he calls to serve him and in using the gospel to make them willing to follow him. Some he calls to a full-time following that leaves behind secular vocations. To all, however, comes the call to follow him with a willingness to abandon everything should faithfulness require it.

## 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: # 901 “O Christians, Haste”**

♪ **O Christians, haste, your mission high fulfilling,  
to tell to all the world that God is light,  
that he who made all nations is not willing  
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.  
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

**Behold how many thousands still are lying  
bound in the dreary prison-house of sin  
with none to tell them of the Savior’s dying  
or of the life he died for them to win.  
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

**Proclaim to ev’ry people, tongue, and nation  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation  
and died on earth that they might live above.  
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Send heralds forth to bear the message glorious,  
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;  
pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious;  
O Christians, haste to bring the brighter day!  
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

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*)

**M**: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C**: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.  
But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior  
Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer and Praise**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: ♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious;  
his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.  
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.**

**You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### **FIRST LESSON: Jonah 3:1-5,10**

**Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”**

**<sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. <sup>4</sup>Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, “Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!”**

**<sup>5</sup>The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.**

**<sup>10</sup>When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 62

### *Refrain*



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

### *Psalm tone*



My soul finds rest in God alone;\*  
my salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation;\*  
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;\*  
my hope comes from him.

### *Refrain*

Though your riches increase,\*  
do not set your heart on them.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;\*  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people;\*  
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

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. I will declare your name to my brothers. In the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

*(Psalm 22:22)*

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 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**HYMN: # 743 “I Hear the Savior Calling”**

**♪ I hear the Savior calling! The gospel comes to me;  
my eyes once closed in blindness, are opened now to see  
that I myself was helpless to live eternally,  
but, dying, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He leads a soul to me,  
a soul in bitter anguish, one needing to be free.  
The gift I have to offer is Christ, my Lord’s decree  
that all have been forgiven; my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He gives this charge to me:  
to serve the best I’m able, whate’er the call may be.  
Thus hand in hand with others who share the gospel key  
we spread the gospel tidings; my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! He changes hearts for me;  
from door to door I witness to share my Savior's plea.  
Yet nothing can be added, no word on bended knee,  
beyond the simple gospel; my Savior calls for me!**

**I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency;  
each moment souls are dying, soon comes eternity.  
And so, my precious Savior, this is my humble plea:  
prepare me for my mission, for you are calling me!**

### **SERMON: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

**<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.**

**<sup>16</sup>As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. <sup>17</sup>So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! <sup>18</sup>And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.**

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**



**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**C:** **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

**M:** Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**C:** **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

**M:** Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C:** **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

**M:** Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**C: Amen.**

**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.**

## **THE HOLY SACRAMENT**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: ♪ We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: ♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♪ **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

### **The Words of Institution**

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **HYMN: # 746:1,3,4,5,6,7 “I Love to Tell the Story”**

♪ **I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**An angel brought glad tidings: "Send all your fears away,  
for Christ, your Lord and Savior, is born for you this day."  
Then many other angels sang praise for Jesus' birth:  
"To God on high be glory, and peace to all the earth."**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**Christ Jesus, pure and holy, without a spot or stain,  
by wicked hands was taken, was crucified and slain!  
And now the work is finished, the sinner's debt is paid,  
because on Christ the Righteous the sin of all was laid.**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**O wonderful redemption! The price for sin is paid,  
salvation is accomplished, my heart is unafraid,  
for God has raised Christ Jesus to show the work was done;  
his glorious resurrection declared the vict'ry won!**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**The Savior of all people has brought his peace to you;  
now go and tell the story, for others need it too.  
To ev'ry land and nation ring out the gospel call;  
proclaim that Christ is risen and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

## **Thanksgiving**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear his name.**

**He renews his promises and leads  
his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Prayer of Thanks**


**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  **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: # 695 “Take My Life and Let It Be”**

 **Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Noreen and John on the occasion of their 62nd anniversary.

**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.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Monday & Tuesday** District Pastors' Conference

**Thursday** Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.

ESL, 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday** Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

## **Christian Questions**

prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- 2. How do you know this?**  
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins?**  
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?**  
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.  
See Romans 6:21, 23.
- 5. Do you hope to be saved?** Yes, that is my hope.
- 6. In whom then do you trust?** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7. Who is Christ?** The Son of God, true God and man.
- 8. How many Gods are there?**  
Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?**  
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- 10. Did the Father also die for you?**  
He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- 11. How do you know this?**  
From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- 12. What are the words of institution?**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- 13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?** Yes, I believe it.
- 14. What convinces you to believe this?**  
The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

**15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?**

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?**

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious.

Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

**17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?**

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

**18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?**

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

**19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?**

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

**20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?**

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

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