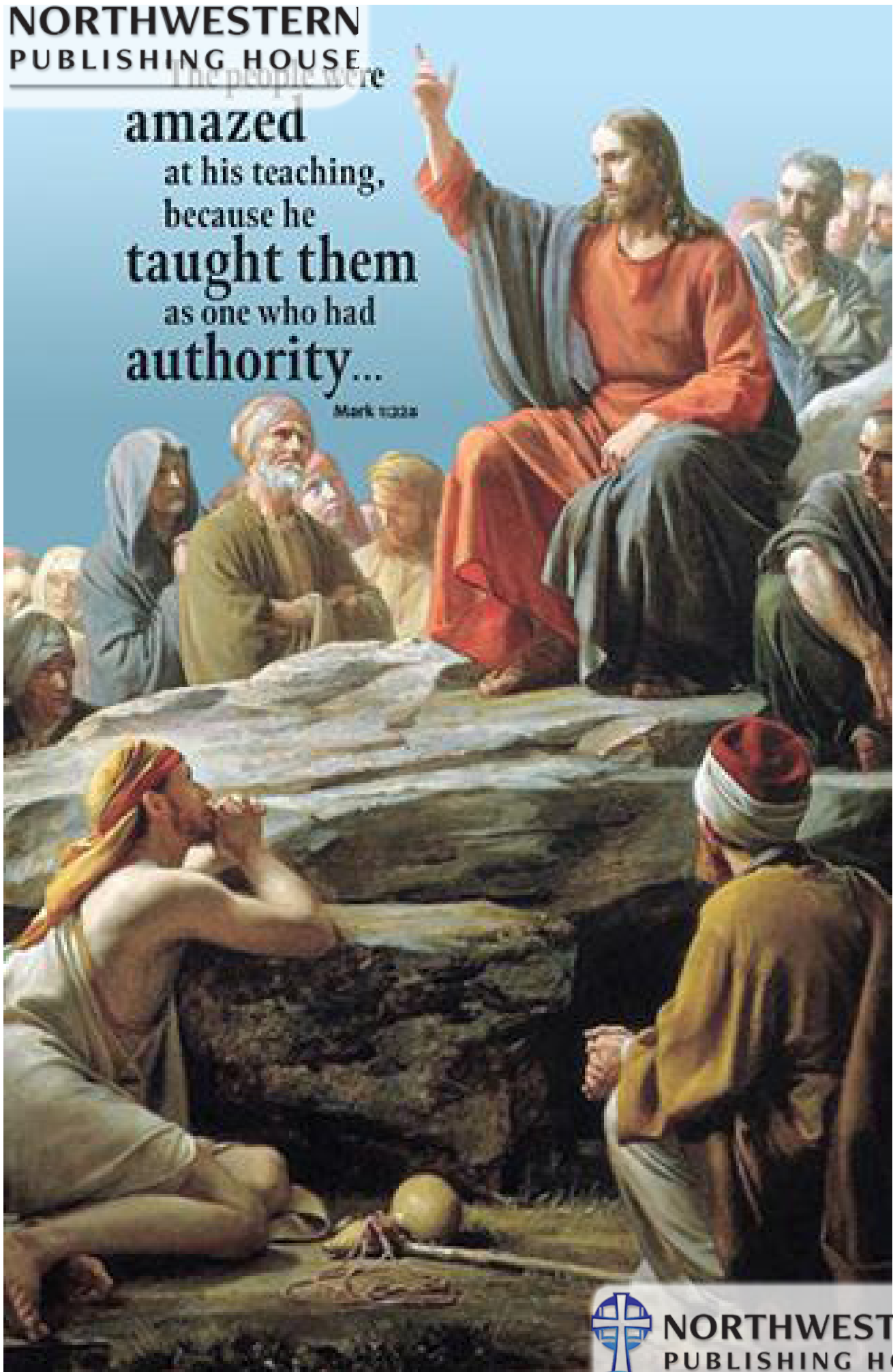




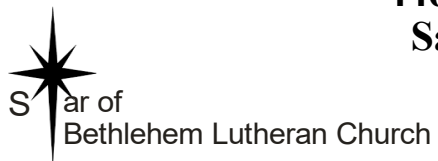
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

The people were
amazed
at his teaching,
because he
taught them
as one who had
authority...

Mark 1:22



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 28, 2024 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.

HYMN: # 517 “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*)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

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

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score ends with a double bar line.

M: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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: Hebrews 3:1-6

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ²He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. ³In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

⁵Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. ⁶But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end.

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. They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority. Alleluia. (*Mark 1:22*)

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 1:21-28

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.

HYMN: # 639 “God Has Spoken by His Prophets”

♪ **God has spoken by his prophets, spoken his unchanging Word,
each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world’s despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.**

**God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father’s glory, with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, before time was;
Light from Light, to earth descending,
he reveals our God to us.**

**God is speaking by his Spirit, speaking to our hearts again,
in the ageless Word declaring
his own message, now as then.
Thro’ the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.**

SERMON: 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.”

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: # 541 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

**♪ How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.**

**How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought,
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought!**

**Till then I would your love proclaim
with ev'ry fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.**

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: # 386:1,3,5 “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 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.**

**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.**

WELS CONNECTION

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 & Jim Washburn Sr., Rich Olerich, Val Wheelock, and Terry's siblings Linda & Carp.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please update your personal information as it changes (either online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now."

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for "Instant Church Directory"

*** You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

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

www.starlutheran.org