



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

*"Let us go somewhere else*

*– to the nearby villages –*

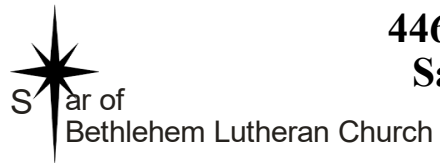
*so I can preach  
there also.*

*That is why I have come."*

Mark 1:38



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:00 a.m.*

### The Fifth Sunday after the EPIPHANY

**Theme of the day:** Our loving God treats us with such tenderness in our weaknesses. While we doubt his providence and protection, he assures us of his constant care here and our guarantee of the eternal life in his heaven. We can always trust his faithful love and power.

## 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: # 520 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**  
*(alternate melody)*

♪ **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad,  
the honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus calms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinners ears, 'tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; he sets the pris’ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood avails for me.**

**See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.  
His life was once an off’ring made  
that you might live again.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever giv’n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heav’n.**

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:** O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully grant that by your power we may be defended against all adversity; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  **Amen.**

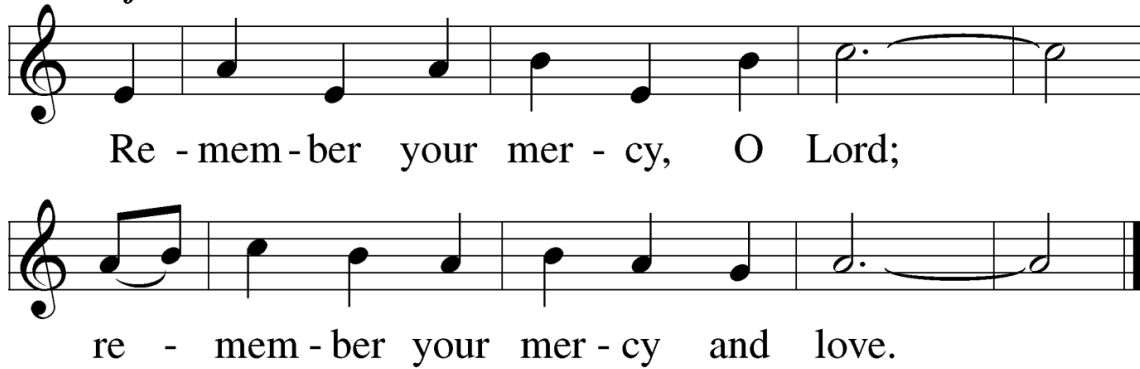
*Please be seated.*

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 43:18-25**

- <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things.  
Do not keep thinking about ancient things.**
- <sup>19</sup>Watch, I am about to do a new thing.  
Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it?  
Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness.  
In the wasteland I will make rivers.**
- <sup>20</sup>The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
because I am providing water in the wilderness,  
rivers in a parched wasteland,  
water for my chosen people to drink.**
- <sup>21</sup>This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise.**
- <sup>22</sup>But you have not called on me, O Jacob.  
Instead, you have become weary of me, O Israel.**
- <sup>23</sup>You have not brought me sheep as your whole burnt offerings.  
You did not glorify me with your sacrifices.  
I did not make you serve me with a grain offering.  
I did not make you weary with demands for incense.**
- <sup>24</sup>You did not purchase fragrant cane for me with silver  
or satisfy me with the fat from your sacrifices.  
Instead you have made me serve because of your sins.  
You have made me weary because of your guilt.**
- <sup>25</sup>I, yes I, am he.  
I blot out your rebellious deeds for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.**

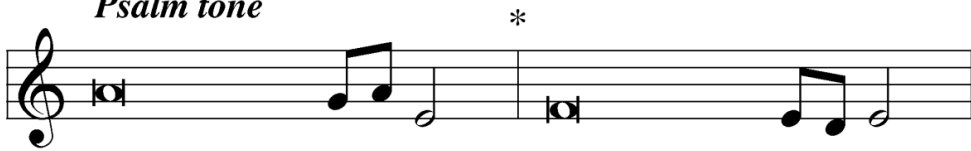
**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 32**

*Refrain*



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone*



\*

**Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,\*  
whose sins are covered.**

**When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;\*  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you\*  
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”\*  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*Refrain*

**You are my hiding place;\*  
you will protect me from trouble.**

**Many are the woes of the wicked,\*  
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in  
him.**

**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. Who is a God like you, who forgives guilt?  
You will throw all our sins into the depths of the sea. Alleluia.  
*(Micah 7:18,19)*

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

**SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22**

<sup>18</sup>As surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” <sup>19</sup>For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us (by me, Silas, and Timothy), was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him the “Yes” stands firm. <sup>20</sup>In fact, as many promises as God has made, they have always been “Yes” in him. For that reason we also say “Amen” through him to the glory of God.

<sup>21</sup>God is the one who makes both us and you to be strong in Christ. He anointed us. <sup>22</sup>He sealed us as his own and gave us the Spirit as the down payment in our hearts.

**HYMN: # 769 “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”**

*(alternate melody)*

♪ Your hand, O Lord, in days of old  
was strong to heal and save;  
it triumphed over pain and death,  
o’er darkness and the grave.  
To you they came, the blind, the mute,  
the paralyzed and lame,  
the lepers in their misery, the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
gave speech and strength and sight;  
and youth renewed and frenzy calmed  
revealed you, Lord of light.  
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as before,  
in crowded street, by beds of pain, as by Gennes’ret’s shore.

**Oh, be our great deliv’rer still, the Lord of life and death;  
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,  
with your life-giving breath.  
To hands that work and eyes that see  
give wisdom’s healing pow’r  
that whole and sick and weak and strong  
may praise you evermore.**

### **SERMON: Mark 2:1-12**

**When Jesus again entered Capernaum some days later, people heard that he was home. <sup>2</sup>So many people were gathered together that there was no more room, not even by the door, and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some people came to him bringing a paralyzed man, carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not bring the man to Jesus because of the crowd, they dug through the roof above where he was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralyzed man was lying. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

**<sup>6</sup>But there were some experts in the law sitting there and thinking in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>“Why does this fellow speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?”**

**<sup>8</sup>Jesus immediately knew in his spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. He asked them, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier: to tell the paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your stretcher, and walk’? <sup>10</sup>But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralyzed man, <sup>11</sup>“I tell you, get up, take your stretcher, and go home.”**

**<sup>12</sup>At once the man got up, picked up the stretcher, and went out in front of everyone. So they were all amazed and glorified God. They said, “We have never seen anything like this!”**

### **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**

**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.**

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.**

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.

**HYMN: # 570 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”**

♪ **God loved the world so that he gave  
his only Son the lost to save  
that all who would in him believe  
should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ is the solid rock of faith,  
who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All who confide in him alone  
are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die;  
his Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
that we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son  
forgives the sins that you have done.  
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood;  
baptized, you are a child of God.**

**If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!**

**Glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!**

**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.**

**HYMN: # 386:1,3,5 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**  
*(alternate melody)*

 **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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl III's birthday.

**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, Val Wheelock, and Terry's siblings Linda & Carp.

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Circuit Meeting (Lancaster) ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon, Voters' Meeting</b>

## **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?**

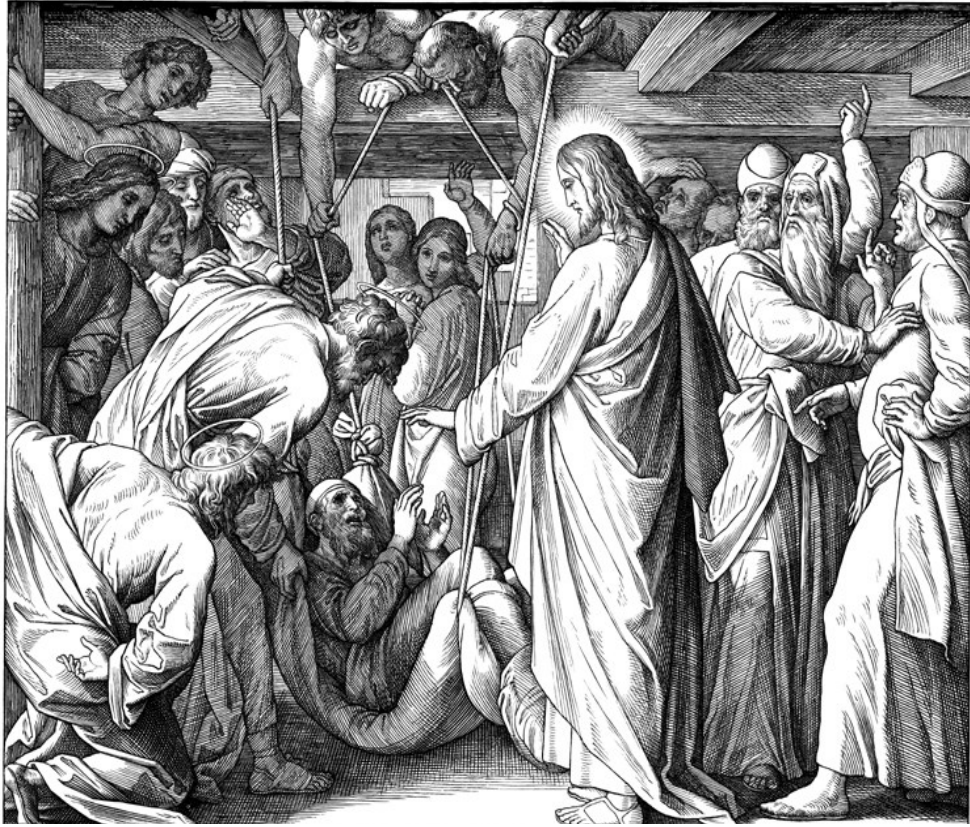
First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

**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.



But, so that you may know that the  
Son of Man has authority on earth  
to forgive sins....

Mark 2:10

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