



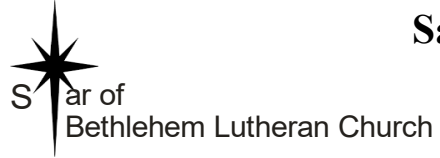
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

[God our Savior]
saved us through
the washing
of rebirth and
renewal by the
Holy Spirit . . .

Titus 3:5



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, January 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after the Epiphany 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.

HYMN: # 379 “Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert”
(sung to alternate melody)

♪ **Christ, your footprints through the desert
led to Jordan’s flowing stream;
there you heard the herald crying
Israel’s old prophetic dream:
“He is coming! He is coming!
He will cleanse the earth with flame!
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!
Wash away your guilt and shame!”**

**Christ, you heard the stirring summons
as by Jordan’s bank you stood;
bathed, though sinless, with your people
in the river’s cleansing flood.
High above, the heavens opened;
came the Spirit as a dove;
spoke a voice beyond all hearing;
“See my Son, the One I love!”**

**Son of God, the road from Jordan
led at last to Calv’ry’s hill.
There upon the cross forsaken,
you fulfilled the Father’s will.
Lamb of God, we see you dying,
sinless, yet for sinners slain.
But where death rose up to triumph,
you began your glorious reign!**

Please stand for last verse:

**God, in Baptism you have made us
one with Christ, our risen Lord,
freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven
through the water and the Word.
Help us hear your urgent summons,
calling us to serve you now.
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,
with the cross upon our brow.**

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: Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

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: Luke 3:15-17,21-22

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."

²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you."

⁴So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵He said, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, "Certainly this is the LORD's anointed."

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?”

Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.”

¹²He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

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.**

HYMN: # 680:1,4 “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

**♪ Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
among your saints, your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,
your Spirit now shall live within.**

**All that I am and love most dearly—
receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely;
help me your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
serve any will but yours alone.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb & brother Jim, Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry Oberg’s siblings Linda and Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, Joe Wilkinson, and Phil Swan.

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** Circuit Meeting
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 Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Look! The Lamb of God,



who takes away the sin of the world!

www.starlutheran.org