



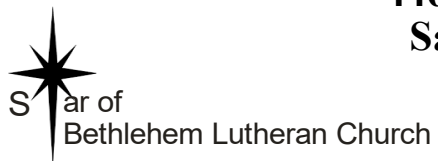
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“Today this  
scripture is fulfilled  
in your hearing.”

Luke 4:21



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:00 a.m.*

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Theme of the day:** Jesus reveals himself as the Anointed One with the Father's authority to proclaim himself as fulfillment of prophecy. The Word made flesh points to the Word and boldly proclaims, "Fulfillment." This bold proclamation carries joy to the very heart of the body of Christ and emboldens its members to proclaim the same.

## 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 e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken-hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through 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 61:1-6

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the afflicted.  
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release for those who are bound,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance for our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion,  
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy instead of mourning,  
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,  
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.  
<sup>4</sup>Then they will rebuild ancient ruins.  
They will raise up what was formerly devastated,  
and they will renew ruined cities,  
which have been devastated for generations.  
<sup>5</sup>Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock,  
and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers.  
<sup>6</sup>You will be called the LORD's priests.  
You will be named ministers of our God.  
You will eat the wealth of nations,  
and you will boast about their riches.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 146

### *Refrain*



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

### *Psalm tone*



Praise the LORD, O my soul.\*  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

**Do not put your trust in princes,\*  
in mortal men, who cannot save.**

**Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

*Refrain*

**The LORD gives food to the hungry,\*  
the LORD sets prisoners free.**

**The LORD gives sight to the blind,\*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**The LORD watches over the outcast\*  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

**The LORD remains faithful forever.\*  
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**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. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)**

**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: Acts 4:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, “Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:

**Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth take their stand,  
and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord  
and against his Anointed One.

<sup>27</sup>“For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup>They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

<sup>29</sup>“Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness <sup>30</sup>as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

## **HYMN: # 384 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”**

♪ **Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**

**Kings shall bow down before him and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.**

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever— that name to us is Love.

**SERMON: Luke 4:16-30**

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

<sup>20</sup>He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

<sup>21</sup>He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup>They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

<sup>23</sup>He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum." <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. <sup>26</sup>Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."

<sup>28</sup>All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. <sup>29</sup>They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.



## **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: # 905 "Good News of God Above"**

♪ **Good news of God above is ours to tell abroad,  
the Father's everlasting love in Christ the risen Lord.  
For neighbors near and far the seed of life is sown;  
then spread the seed by word and deed  
to make the Savior known.**

**The love of Christ proclaim, who left his home on high;  
to live our human life he came, our human death to die.  
The Father's only Son became the sinners' friend,  
our lot to share, our sin to bear,  
and death's dominion end.**

**The Lord of Glory lives! From cross and death and grave  
his own abundant life he gives to those he died to save.  
His righteousness and peace declare from sea to sea;  
his praises sound the world around  
for Christ has made us free.**

**Hear now the Master's word to those who bear his name:  
"So send I you," till all have heard,  
"make known, declare, proclaim!"  
Go forth in all the earth; embrace the path he trod  
with Christ beside as friend and guide  
to bring good news of God.**

## **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: # 929 "May the Peace of God"**

**♪ May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,  
and the grace of Christ the risen Son,  
and the fellowship of God the Spirit  
keep our hearts and minds within his love.  
And to him be praise for his glorious reign  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain —  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.**

**May this peace which passes understanding,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,  
and this fellowship of his communion  
make us one in spirit and in heart.**

**And to him be praise for his glorious reign  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain —  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Chris & Terry.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, 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.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you have something for which you would like us to be praying or you would like to be included in this chain, please let Ryan ([thecamoores@gmail.com](mailto:thecamoores@gmail.com)) or Pastor Foley ([revmikefoley@gmail.com](mailto:revmikefoley@gmail.com)) know. Requests from prayer chain will also be included in the bulletin.

It might also be nice to update us on the people for whom you are requesting prayers (so we might pray more specifically).

### **THIS WEEK**

**Monday-Tuesday California Pastors' Conference**

**Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. (Elders)**

**ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

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

**Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

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