

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (EPIPHANY 1)JANUARY 13, 2019
THE OFFICE OF MATINS, PAGE 219

AS WE GATHER: Have you ever thought about how powerful fear and worry are in our lives? Fear takes hold. It ties us in knots and refuses to let us go. On our own, we're powerless to undo these "fear knots." Only Jesus has the power to release us from their captivity. "Fear not," He says to His redeemed people! "You are Mine," He refreshingly reminds us. Our worship on this Baptism of Our Lord Sunday brings us with Jesus to the baptismal waters, enabling us to hear the living voice of our God as He washes us clean and makes us His own. Fear may take its hold for a moment, but Jesus' hold is eternal. "Fear knots" may have their day. "Fear not" are saving words forever.

+ PREPARATION +

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

VersiclesPage 219

+ PSALMODY +

Common AntiphonPage 220

Venite ~ *O Come, Let Us Sing* and Common AntiphonPages 220-221

Additional Psalm **Psalm 29**



- P** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,*
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.
- C** Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name; *
worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness.
- P** The voice of the LORD is over the | waters; *
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many | waters.
- C** The voice of the LORD is | powerful; *
the voice of the LORD is full of | majesty.
- P** The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedars; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of | Lebanon.
- C** He makes Lebanon to skip | like a calf; *
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.
- P** The voice | of the Lord *
flashes forth | flames of fire.



C The voice of the LORD shakes the | wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of Kadesh.

P The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the | forests bare,*
and in his temple all cry, | “Glory!”

C The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.

P May the LORD give strength to his | people!*
May the LORD bless his people | with peace!

All Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The Athanasian CreedLSB 319

Office Hymn “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy” #590

✝ READINGS ✝

Isaiah 43:1-7

[The Lord calls His own by name.]

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my eyes,

and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,

peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵Fear not, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you.

⁶I will say to the north, Give up,

and to the south, Do not withhold;

bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

Romans 6:1–11

[We are baptized into Christ.]

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

St. Luke 3:15–22

[Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River.]

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

Responsory – CommonPage 221

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day **“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” #405 (G)**

Sermon **“You Are Mine” Isaiah 43:1-7**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

+ CANTICLE +

Te Deum ~ We Praise You, O GodPages 223-225

Offering and Attendance Registration

Reception of New Members

+ PRAYER +

Kyrie, Lord's Prayer, Collect of the Day, and IntercessionsPages 227-228

P Let us pray to the Lord, **C** Lord, have mercy. *or* **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

Benedicamus and BenedictionPage 228

Hymn to Depart“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” #399 (G)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP THOUGHTS

Though it is fitting that we use the Narthex to greet one another and especially welcome visitors before the worship begins, it is also important that we take quiet time to prepare ourselves for worship once entering the Sanctuary. Plan, if possible, to arrive early enough to scan through the bulletin so you are acquainted with any changes for this Sunday.

As you come to worship, take some time to pray for the pastor and for others participating in the worship service today. Listen to the Prelude, which is not mere background music, but an invitation for all to give attention to God's Word and prayer.

Are you familiar with the hymns we are singing today? Please take a few moments to read through the words of each hymn, especially those that appear new to you.

If you make the sign of the cross (✝) during worship, it is done in remembrance of Baptism. When we were baptized, the sign of the cross was made on our heart and head to signify that we belonged to Christ. This is our present identity. The making the sign of the cross (✝) during worship is an act of devotion that dates back to the third century A.D. It is very much a Christian practice, not limited to any one particular denomination.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God’s world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God’s House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

OUR WORSHIP STYLE: We are a “liturgical” church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God’s Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, “We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us.” If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

TODAY’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON is “The “Presentation of Jesus” in the temple. Already in His infancy, Jesus was fulfilling the Law for us and for our salvation. Ask your children, “What happened and who was in the temple waiting to see the promised Savior? What does this text tell us about who we find in God’s house?”

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: “The Life of Saint Paul” – We will study that section of the New Testament which deals with the life and work of St. Paul; primarily using the Acts of the Apostles and St. Paul’s Epistles.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES this week include, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adults are studying “**Habakkuk: A Victorious Faith.**” Sooner or later one question comes to the lips of every child, youth, and adult: Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer? In the midst of personal, national, and world problems Habakkuk helps us find God’s answer — in a victorious faith.

TODAY WE ARE BLESSED to be welcoming new members - Don & Teresa Gibson (transfer from St. James/Gonzales, LA; and Christopher & Sarah McDonald, Rayne & Jamilynn (transfer from St. John/Athens). We welcome all of you into our Bethlehem family of faith! May God bless our worship, service and witness together!

NEWSLETTER –The **JANUARY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the February newsletter are due in the church office next Sunday. Thank you!

THE QUARTERLY VOTER’S MEETING will take place after the Divine Service, Sunday, January 27th.

CHILI FRIDAY: is only **2 weeks away**, January 25th! We are looking for helpers and silent auction donations. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please see Megan Taylor or Donna Hughes if you would like to help.

FROM THE ADLERS: Our heartfelt thanks for all the cards, gifts, “goodies” and for the generous Christmas gift from Bethlehem congregation. It is truly a blessing to serve you all!

FROM OUR SECRETARY, PIANIST AND ORGANISTS, Tammy Pike, Sylvia Frenzel and Mary Bowden: We extend a heartfelt thank you to our Bethlehem family for the generous gift you gave to us at Christmas. Also from Aaron Jackson: I would like to thank the congregation for the Christmas gift and for your continued support of my future education.

FROM DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, DEVIN JACKSON: Thank you to our Youth and Adults; Ann & Nic Worsham, Calvin, Megan, Sara, Jasmine, Carson & Hailey Taylor, Melanie & Matthew Jackson for taking down all the ornaments and removing the Christmas trees Wednesday night. After completing the cleanup, everybody still had time for a Bible lesson!

RING FOUND in the parking lot Wednesday night. If it is yours, please contact the church office.

COFFEE DRINKERS: Please donate to the Coffee Kitty so that we can continue to provide coffee. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for January through March are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

LIFE QUOTES: “If God places such high value on life—all life (St. John 3:16)—how can we possibly be less concerned? We do love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8) because when we had no voice, no standing, no defense, Jesus stepped in on our behalf. There is no way we can be less loving.” *Christian Life Resources* • www.lutheransforlife.org

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson’s college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

ABOUT THE COVER: From the open heavens comes the Spirit. Christ is the Chosen One. There is no doubt about who is the Christ; it is Jesus! Jesus is the one with whom God is pleased. He is God’s Son. He takes on a Baptism of repentance in our place in order to fulfill all righteousness. Here, He begins His ministry, which leads to the cross and resurrection.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; St. John 2:1-11.

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$4975.24	Sunday School	17
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	74
Building Fund	\$250.00	Communion	60
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00	Mid-Week	22

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (01/13) 9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	The Baptism of Our Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany) Sunday School & Bible Classes Worship Jessica Bowden Mary Bowden Lea Rosier & Lana Bowden James Taylor LWML Meeting / Evangelism Board
Wednesday (01/16) 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Potluck Supper Bible Classes
Thursday (01/17) Sunday (01/20)	Circuit 14 Winkle-Redeemer/Nacogdoches Second Sunday after the Epiphany Sanctity of Life Sunday (special door offering for Living Alternatives) 9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte/Crucifer: Pianist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:
	Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service / Holy Communion Kristen Harris Sylvia Frenzel Lea Rosier & Lana Bowden James Taylor Evangelism Board / Newsletter Items Due

www.belctx.org
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], James Reed [Devin Jackson's co-worker] and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: Bobby Fulmer, Albert Harris, George Nelson ... **Friends: Jackie Enders** (01/13) [Donna Hughes' sister in law]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

In Prison: William Schatte (LC-MS member @ Faith/Plano, incarcerated at Powledge Unit)

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Bob Gruetzner, Leo Markwardt

Comfort: De Anne Atkinson and family for the loss of her father, Paul Gianakon

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

