



Narrative Lectionary

Year 2

Week 21

MINISTRY OF JESUS BEGINS

2nd Sunday After Epiphany
Sunday, January 14, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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If you have prayer requests you'd like included in our worship prayers, please go to the one of the Prayer List stands and write them down. They will be given to Pastor Whitby before the worship prayers.



ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

MARIA KUBE IN MEMORY OF CALVIN KUBE



THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Mark's Gospel.
Mark is the focus of Year 2 in the Narrative Lectionary.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

LSB LSB 533 sts. 1-2, 4



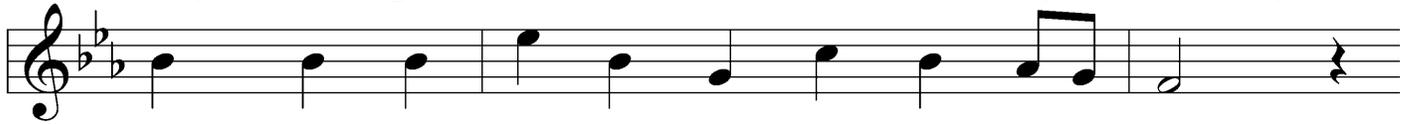
1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,
2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!
4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;
Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.
Heav - en and earth, O de - clare His great pow'r,



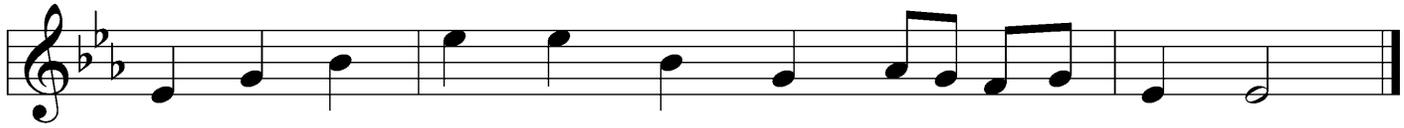
God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,
See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!
Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;



O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav - en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:
Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.
Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!
Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!
Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

Invocation (Based on Mark 1:1-8)

P: John the Baptist appeared, baptizing people in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

C: God had announced this through the prophet Isaiah:

P: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

C: And all the people were going out to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. They were confessing their sins.

P: And John said, "I have baptized you with water, but the One who comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

C: This is Jesus, the Son of God, our Lord, the Christ, the Messiah.

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession (Mark 1:15,2:17,7:14-23)

P: Jesus began His ministry, preaching and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;

C: repent and believe in the gospel."

P: When Jesus knew that some thought they were already righteous, without sin, He said to them "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

C: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P: [Jesus] called the people to Him and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand." And He calls us now, "Hear me, all of you, and understand."

C: We have come to hear and repent.

P: Jesus says, "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

C: We repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

Absolution (Forgiveness) (Mark 2:5,10, 5:34; 10:52)

P: And when Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic brought for healing by his friends,
He said, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

C: Because Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins!

P: And Jesus said to the woman who reached out to touch Him for healing,
"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."
And Jesus said to the man born blind but had now received sight,
"Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I say to you: "Your sins are forgiven, your faith has made you well." I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Response of Praise (based on Mark 10:52)

LSB 551 sts. 1, 4-5



1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in



help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -



longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

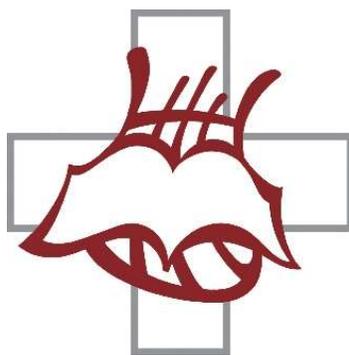
P: Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your
praises. I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us. You came from heaven to earth.
to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.



Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2020.

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Cover photo: "Jesus heals the Paralytic" Illustration by Harold Copping (1863-1932) Printed Biblical Illustration, Published in 1910

Anthem**Jesus Is Lord of All****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

All my tomorrows, all my past, Jesus is Lord of all.
I've quit my struggle, contentment at last, Jesus is Lord of all.
King of kings, Lord of lords, Jesus is Lord of all;
All my possessions, and all my life, Jesus is Lord of all.
All of my conflicts, all my thoughts, Jesus is Lord of all.
His love wins the battles I could not have fought, Jesus is Lord of all.
King of kings, Lord of lords, Jesus is Lord of all;
All my possessions, and all my life, Jesus is Lord of all.
All of my longings, all my dreams, Jesus is Lord of all.
All of my failures His power redeems, Jesus is Lord of all.
King of kings, Lord of lords, Jesus is Lord of all;
All my possessions, and all my life, Jesus is Lord of all.

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading**Mark 2:1–20 (ESV)**

¹And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

¹³He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶And the scribes of the

Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

¹⁸Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

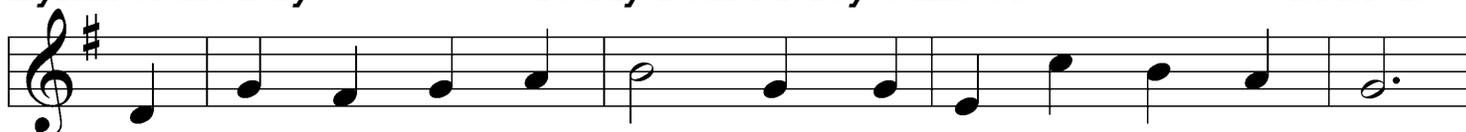
P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB LSB 915



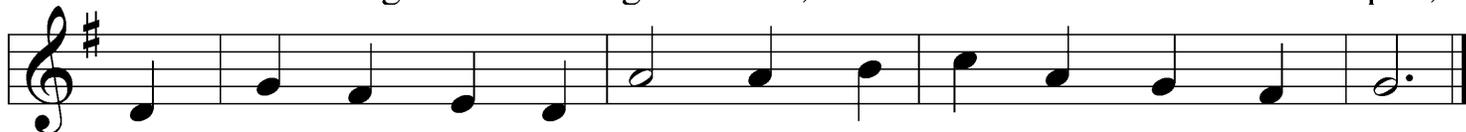
1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
 2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
 Shall find a Fa - ther’s wel - come And par - don for their sin.
 His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav’n - ly gates.
 What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o’er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv’n,
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav’n.
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther’s home.
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Sermon

“Which is Easier?”

Confession of Faith from Mark 8:27-30, 9:31, 10:33-34, 12:10-11, 16:6-7

P: When Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” Peter answered:

C: “You are the Christ.”

P: meaning the Messiah, the Anointed One, coming to save God’s people.

C: Did Jesus come with His glory and power?

P: No, not during His first coming. He told the disciples many times how the Lord’s salvation would be accomplished: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

And again: “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

This fulfills Psalm 118 which says:

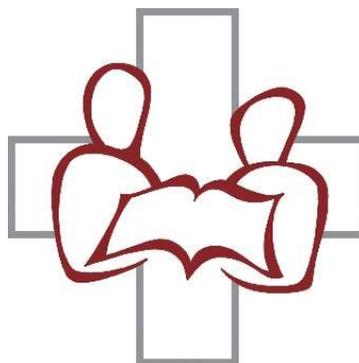
C: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

P: So we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus just as He told us and as the angel declared to the women when they went early to the tomb on Easter: “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

C: This is our Resurrection hope.

Jesus has told us that He will return again to take us to be with Him forever.

We will see Him, just as He told us. Amen.



Offering Preface (based on Mark 10:42-45, 12:41-44)

P: Come, now, and offer your lives in service to the Lord. Jesus said, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.”

C: But it shall not be this way among us!

**Whoever would be great among us must be a servant to others,
and whoever would be first among us must be servant of all.**

For even Jesus did not come to be served but to serve,

P: and to give his life as a ransom for many.

When you come to bring financial offerings to the ministry of the Lord, remember what the Lord Jesus taught while watching the poor widow come to the Temple with her offering. She came and put in two small copper coins, which adds up to a penny.

C: Jesus said this widow put in more offering than all the others.

P: The others gave out of their abundance, their extra wealth,

**C: But out of her poverty,
the widow put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.**

P: Come, give to the Lord from your heart and as a servant. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.



Offertory (Based on Mark 10:42-45)

LSB 857 sts. 1, 4

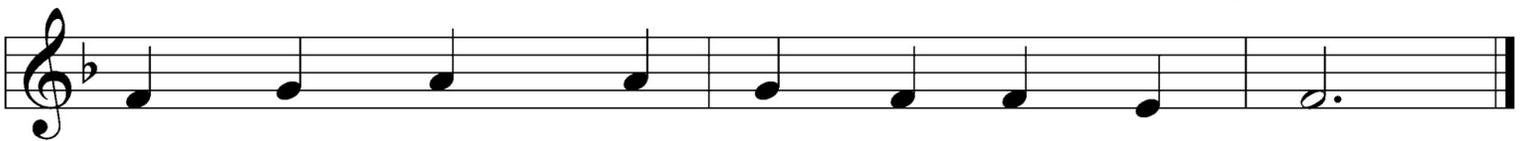
(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.

Prayers

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Mark 5:34; 10:52)

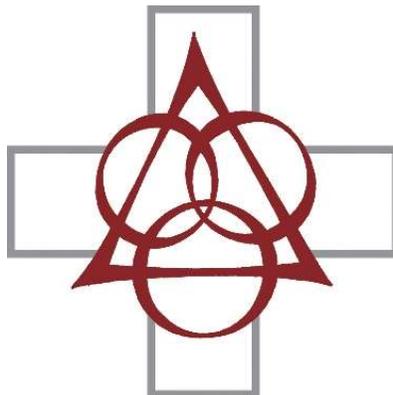
P: As you have already heard this day, the words of Jesus which He spoke to others while here on Earth, these are words which He speaks to you as well today:

“My children, your sins are forgiven.”

“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



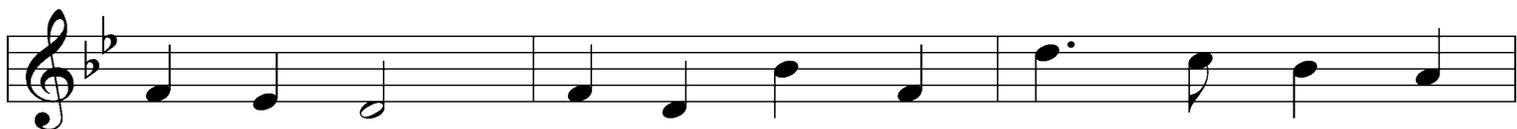
Closing Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

LSB LSB 924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM



Today's Guest Pastor
Rev. Kris Whitby

Assistant to the President
-Mission & Ministry
Northern Illinois District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Prior to 2021, the Rev. Kris Whitby served 16 years as pastor at Saint Paul, Mt. Prospect, and during that time he also was honored to serve as our District's North region's Vice President. In February 2021, Pastor Kris was installed as Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry for the NID where he works with President Allan Buss and our district's congregations to promote our district's threefold ministry focus of Word, Wellness, and Witness. He and his wife, Marguerita live in Palatine. They have a son and daughter, and now are enjoying being grandparents.