

**Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**  
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**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

The Decisive Time for Turning  
Life Sunday  
January 21 & 22, 2012

**AS WE GATHER:** In this first month of the year we are aware of the ongoing passage of time. Yet each day includes its own opportunity for a fresh start through repentance and renewal of faith. The ancient Ninevites responded to Jonah's warning and repented of their sins; St. Paul urged the early Church to remember that they were living in the End Times, anticipating the final Day of Judgment; and Jesus calls us to repent and believe in the Gospel each time we hear His gracious good news. Our very gathering together today provides just cause for repentant rejoicing.

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: When Jesus was beginning to call His first disciples, He announced, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel" (*Mark 1:15*). Our God has been our help in ages past; He is our hope for years to come. He, our eternal Lord, comes to us today in His Word. It is the good news of Jesus' paying for our sins---and the resurrection proof that our heavenly Father accepted His sacrifice for us --that enables us to believe, confess, repent, and ask God to guide us in lives pleasing to Him. Therefore, now is the time for us to draw near to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

Pastor: Most merciful God, we confess that, as the prophet Jonah, we have at times refused to announce Your mercy to the people around us when You gave us the opportunity.

**People: Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

Pastor: With Your people throughout the ages, we have valued our social and professional connections, our

property and possessions, our intellect and emotions more than Your abiding presence each and every day.

**People: Have mercy, loving Lord.**

Pastor: Unlike the disciples who left everything behind to follow You, we have continued with business as usual without significant regard for Your divine will in our lives.

**People: Open our hearts and minds to Your guidance and direction, O Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Our Lord fulfilled all prophecies, being born, living an obedient life, dying and rising in our place. Behold, the kingdom of God is at hand. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made"**  
*LW 200*

**KYRIE** (*spoken*)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace that came down from above when our Lord entered human history and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the preservation of peace among our allies and enemies, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all whom our Lord calls to follow let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their life and resources in grateful worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **THIS IS THE FEAST**

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God  
and the Lamb for ever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY** [*LSB* adapted]

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully  
look upon our infirmities

**People: and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal  
and defend us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

**People: Amen.**

+ **WORD** +

**OLD TESTAMENT** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (*The people of Nineveh repent.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 62; *refrain: v.8 & Mark.1:15 (My soul waits for God alone.) LW 87*

*Refrain (sung)*

**The time's fulfilled; repent, believe. O people trust in God always.**

**Pour out your hearts before the Lord. God is our refuge and our stay.**

Pastor: For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from Him comes my salvation.  
He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

*Refrain(sung)*

**The time's fulfilled; repent, believe. O people trust in God always.**

**Pour out your hearts before the Lord. God is our refuge and our stay.**

Pastor: How long will all of you attack a man to batter him,  
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.  
They take pleasure in falsehood.  
They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

*Refrain*

**The time's fulfilled; repent, believe. O people, trust in God always.  
Pour out your hearts before the Lord. God is our refuge and our stay.**

Pastor: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from Him.  
He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.  
Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us.

*Refrain (sung)*

**The time's fulfilled; repent, believe. O people, trust in God always.  
Pour out your hearts before the Lord. God is our refuge and our stay.**

Pastor: Those of low estate are but a breath;  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no trust in extortion;  
set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.  
Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,  
and that to You, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.  
For You will render to a man according to his work.

*Refrain*

**The time's fulfilled; repent, believe. O people, trust  
in God always.  
Pour out your hearts before the Lord. God is our  
refuge and our stay.**

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 7:29-35 (*We are living in the end  
times.*)

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Mixed Choir:** **“Listen, God Is Calling”**

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** *Mark 1:15*

**Pastor:** Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God  
is at hand;

**People:** **repent and believe in the Gospel. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 1:14-20 (Jesus calls four fishermen to  
follow Him.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** "O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" *LW* 314

**SERMON**

**CREED**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall 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**

**OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY HYMN "O God, Let Vineyards Fruitful Be"**

Tune only: ST. ANNE, LW 180

**O God, let vineyards fruitful be, our cup of blessing fill.  
Gather a harvest from sown seed; in mercy feed us still.**

**The Bread of Life we shall receive, all hopes and dreams  
entwined.**

**Accept the prayers we offer now; in You our peace we find.**

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## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. With joy we present these symbols of all that we are and have. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Now, in the words of our Lord, we are bold to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

**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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift His countenance on you and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*  
People: **Amen.**

**HYMN "Jesus, Lead Thou On" LW 386**

## **OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** We remember in prayer this morning our many shut-ins and friends of Ebenezer that they will be granted healing and comfort, especially – **Bernice Zastrow**, Pastor's mother, who is hospitalized with a broken leg; **Hulda Althage**, sister of Dorris Bade and aunt of Jennifer Thurmond; **Yvonne Gleitz**, mother of Paul Gleitz; **Eric Hohlt**, **Adeline Keune**, **Mathilde Ohse**, **Ada Groppe**, **Ardell Wagner**, **Ed Gardner**, who is at the Veteran's Home in Oxford, Mississippi; **Evelyn Bauche**, **Edna Deppermann**, **Delores Roehrs**, **Beth Pelster**, and **Ray and Irene Bargaen**; **Darlene McDaris**, who is still receiving cancer treatments; **Chelsea Hubenthal**, as she is still

recovering from injuries suffered in a serious car accident; **and all those we hold dear in our hearts.**

We remember the family of **Marlin Deppermann**, that God would grant them peace and comfort, especially Marlin's parents, **Rube and Dalphrine and Marlin's wife, Donna, and family.** Marlin passed away last Sunday morning. Visitation and funeral service was held here yesterday (Saturday, January 21st).

We pray that the Lord will guide our **Church leaders to fulfill God's will and purpose. Bless us with faithful pastors and Church workers who will faithfully steward God's Word to us and to bless our missionaries, Robin McCoy in Thailand, the Rodewald family in Africa and John Strasen who will be going to Botswana soon.**

We pray for the **leaders of world nations**, that they may use every opportunity to increase peace across their borders, that this new year will be a time of greater peace and joy throughout the world.

We pray for the **men and women serving in our Armed Forces** stationed in foreign countries and here at home; and **the people who respond to emergencies – our law enforcement people, and firefighters and first responders who help to keep us safe.**

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*To our members and guests – we are so glad you are here with us today! May the Lord refresh you with peace and love during our worship services. We ask that our visitors please sign the guest register near the Church entrance. Please join us here at Ebenezer for worship and fellowship again soon!*

**Voter's Meeting will be tomorrow evening, Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Please plan to attend.**

**The following have been nominated for offices for this coming year:**

**Elder – Dave Summers; President – Paul Brune; Vice President – Bob Kirschenmann; Secretary – Pat Anderson; Treasurer – Wilbert Baumann; Trustee – Kevin Hoemann; Education Committee – Karen Scheer; Evangelism Committee – Judy Allmeroth; Stewardship Committee – Roland Walkenhorst**

**Lutheran Witness Subscription Renewals – Our Annual Lutheran Witness subscriptions will be due February 1<sup>st</sup>. The subscription price for 2012 is \$15.60. Please let Mary Sprick know if you would like to have your subscription renewed or terminated for 2012. If we do not hear from you by TODAY, we will assume you want to renew your subscription. There is an envelope in your contribution envelope box to use to pay for the subscription of \$15.60. Thank you!**

**Washington Circuit Youth Gathering at Camp Trinity, New Haven – February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. All of our youth in grades 6 – 12 are invited and encouraged to attend. The event will**

**begin at 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and conclude by 3:00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the weekend is *World vs Word*. It will be an exciting time for our youth to grow in the Word with their fellow peers in our Washington Circuit. Parents and or college age youth are also welcome to come along and help as counselors. Questions about the event can be directed to Ruth Rethemeyer, Camp Trinity at 573-237-2072 or [camptrinity73@yahoo.com](mailto:camptrinity73@yahoo.com). If we have snow or cold winter weather that weekend, be sure to bring warm clothing or even a sled for some fun in the snow. This should be a wonderful faith strengthening event for all in attendance. **There were registration forms in last week's bulletins. There are also some on the table near our entrance today. Mail registrations in by January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.****

**Ebenezer Mission Society made 32 warming bags to give to the Labor and Delivery department at Mercy Hospital. Thank you to the ladies who came to help!**

**Please be sure to pick up the latest inserts for your Church directory. They are on the table near the entrance.**

**Just a reminder – Please continue to save the Best Choice labels. We do receive some money for these labels annually. There is a box on the shelves in the kitchen to put the labels in. Thank you!**

**Please take a moment to look at some of the wonderful pictures of our Church and different activities that have taken place here. Karen Sprick has put these pictures in an**

**album which is on display on the table near the Church entrance.**

***Immanuel Lutheran School to host “Wednesdays at Immanuel”***

Every Wednesday during January and February, Immanuel Lutheran School will host a series of informal open houses. These open houses are designed for families in the community to visit the school while classes are in session. Families will also have the opportunity to tour the school campus, talk with the principal and learn more about the many programs that ILS has to offer.

Doors are open every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Reservations are not required – simply stop by and join us as your schedule allows! For more details, contact the school office at 636-239-1636

Mr. Nick Hopfensperger – Principal

**Those Serving Today**

**Organist Saturday – Jenny Huellinghoff**

**Organist Sunday – Ruth Marschel**

**Had Usher Saturday – Tracey Bade**

**Head Usher Sunday – Marvin Kassebaum**

**Choir Director – Kathy Scheer**

**Altar Guild – Barbara Gilbert and Mary Adams**

**Acolytes Scheduled to Serve – Brent Thurmond and Cody Adams**

**Bell Ringer – Matt Kassebaum**

**Our measure of love in giving last week – Weekly envelopes**

**\$1,356.00; Plate \$34.75; Sunday School \$28.79; Memorials for Ruth**

**Marks \$290.00; Lutheran Witness Subscriptions \$48.00; Portals of Prayer \$21.00. Total \$1,778.54 Attendance Saturday 18; Sunday 90. Sunday School Attendance 14 Children; 22 Adults.**

**This Week at Ebenezer**

**Monday – Quarterly Voter’s Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Tuesday – Education/Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7:00 PM**

**Wednesday – Confirmation 6:30 PM**

**Saturday – Worship 3:00 PM**

**Mark your February calendar for – February 19<sup>th</sup> – Thrivent chili dinner here. A free will offering will be taken. The recipient is the Leslie Food Pantry. Watch bulletins for more details.**

**Please note that today is Lutherans For Life Sunday.**

Lutherans For Life (LFL) exists FOR the preborn, children, young people, women and men facing a crisis pregnancy, women and men experience the aftermath on abortion, people with disabilities and terminal illness, and the elderly.

Estate Planning, Wills, Annuities, and Trusts are “FOR” people as well. They are ways for you to take care of your family and do the work of the Lord. A Christian estate plan, beginning with a Christian preamble, acknowledges an understanding of where your gifts come FROM and leaves a legacy to your family as well as to ministries such as Lutherans For Life.

There are a number of ways you can fulfill your charitable goals that will ensure that your values and stewardship of your blessings may be communicated well into the future. There are ways to provide a modest amount which can become a significant gift. There are ways to provide assets in exchange for a lifetime of income. There are ways to provide a gift from your wealth without reducing your heir’s inheritance. Finally, there are ways to help reduce or avoid capital gains, income, estate, and gift taxes.

We would be glad to discuss your plans with you. Please contact us for more information on how you can share the gifts you have received FROM the Lord by supporting the FOR LIFE ministry of LFL.

A representative of Lutherans For Life will be glad to meet with you and your family. Lutherans For Life, Inc., 1120 S. G. Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-2774. [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org). [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org). Phone 888-364-LIFE 515-382-2077