

Epiphany 2 1/19/14
John 1:29-42a A

“BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!”

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."
What do you do with words like that?

"Red light!" We know what to do with words like that -- put on the brakes and stop. "Fire!" You know to file out of the building, in an orderly manner. "You have one month to live." You know that it's time to make sure your last will and testament is in order.

But what about, “Behold”? It demands your attention. It means more than “Listen Up;” “stop texting;” “close your Facebook page.” “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” What are you supposed to do with words like that?

The very fact that you're not sure what to do with this word tells you something. And it's not something good. Much worse than you didn't know the light changed or the building was on fire or your health is quickly fading. The fact you are not sure what those words means that you take sin lightly.

Legions were the saints of old who waited all of their life for this word. They longed to hear this word that you have just heard. They waited and the longed because they knew their sin and the sinfulness of this world.

Adam and Eve, longed to hear as they stood there in their new clothes, on the outside of paradise, looking in. The first murderer, Cain, longed to hear as he lived in constant fear that everyone he met was plotting to avenge his brother Abel's shed blood by shedding his blood. That famous deceiver, Jacob, longed to hear as he nervously awaited a long-dreaded reunion with his brother Esau, whom he had deceived of his birth right.

The idolatrous people of Israel longed to hear when Moses caught them in the act of worshiping a golden calf that they had made with their own hands. The ungrateful people of Israel longed to hear as they were being bitten by poisonous serpents in the desert because they had

complained that God didn't care for them as much as good, old Pharaoh had.

This is the word that David longed to hear when Nathan exposed the guilt of his adultery and murder. This is the word that Solomon longed to hear in his old age as he looked back on his life and laments the way he wasted the gifts that God had given him, "Meaningless, meaningless, utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (Ecc.1:2).

This is the word that Joseph longed to hear when, through no sin of his own, his jealous brothers sold him into slavery. This is the word the people of Israel longed to hear when, through no sin of theirs, Pharaoh seized their baby boys and slaughtered them before their eyes.

"BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD."

Do you think that these saints of old would have known what to do with those words of John? You better believe they would. They would have rejoiced with exceeding joy because their deliverance had come. Whether they were suffering from the consequences of their own sin or the consequences of the sin of others, this Lamb of God had come to take away the sins OF THE WORLD. And that meant that He would take away the sin that they did and the sin of others that was done to them. Their Savior had come to save them. He will take their burden from them and carry it upon His shoulders. He will take their captivity captive and set them free. He will suffer the blows for their sins and by His stripes they will be healed.

If you're still not sure what to do with this word, then, "BEHOLD." See your sin, and the Lamb Christ who takes away your sin.

"Consider you place in life according to the 10 Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?"

Consider how much like your father and mother, Adam and Eve, you are. How often have you believed the serpent, doubted God's Word, and done what God said, "you shall not do"? How often, like Cain, have you murdered your brother or sister with gossip and back-biting and failed to speak a word in their defense? How often, like Jacob, have you disguised your true intentions and deceived your neighbor to get what you want from him or her?

Consider how often, like Israel in the desert, you've given up on God and put your trust in your own hands and the things you can buy with your gold and silver. Consider how often, like Israel in the desert, you have complained that God hasn't satisfied your every hunger and thirst for every gizmo and gadget that everyone else has.

Consider how often, like David, you've tried to hide the guilt inside of you because you cast your eyes on what is forbidden instead of casting your eyes on the cross of Christ. How often have you, like Solomon, looked back on your life and lamented the time and energy you put into things that, in the end, didn't really matter, while neglecting those things that really do?

Consider the world in which you live and how much like the world of Joseph it is. Through no sin of yours, others seek to harm you and do you wrong simply because they're jealous or envious of you and it would make them feel better if you failed. Like the Israelites in Egypt, think of how much you have suffered at the hands of those who wished to harm you.

"BEHOLD, YOUR SINS AND THE SINS OF THE WORLD THAT TAKE AWAY OF THE LAMB OF GOD."

The Christian life is the life of repentance. That means that we see our sin and we confess it. We confess the sins that we are aware of and those we are unaware of, of those that we have committed and those that have been committed against us.

Then and only then, will you know what to do with this precious word, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." And if He takes it away from you, then it is not longer yours. It is His.

And, suffers for your idolatry and adultery, your envy and greed, your selfishness and carelessness and cowardliness, what you have done and what you have failed to do – in your place. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

So, what do you do with a word like this? You make it God's Word to you. You hear it and believe it. You hear it as the water is poured over your head at your baptism, and you rejoice that you are God's own child. You hear it as your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and you are filled with good cheer. You hear it as you eat His body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of sins and strength to live a holy life in Him.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther once said:

"There are only two abodes for sin: it either resides with you, weighing you down; or it lies on Christ, the Lamb of God. If it is loaded on your back, you are lost; but if it rests on Christ, you are free and saved."

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Concordia Lutheran Church

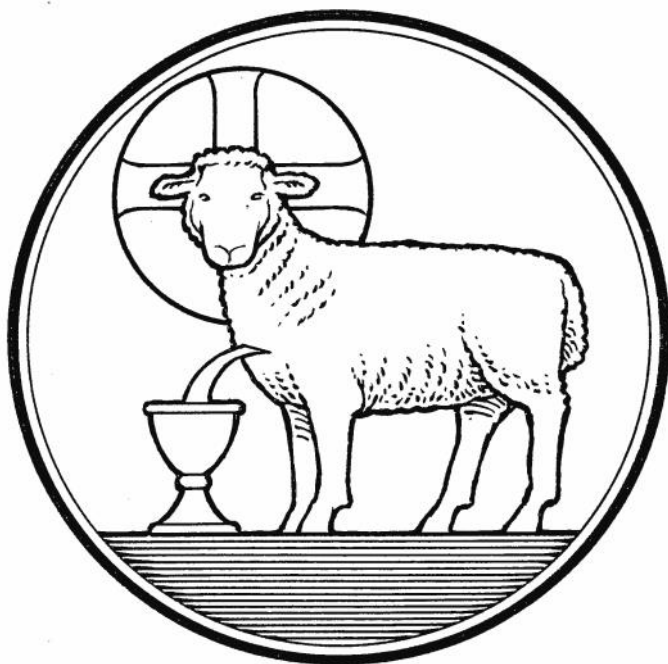
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

January 19, 2014



*"Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John 1:29b

Divine Service Setting One

Hymn of Invocation # 398

Confession & Absolution p. 151

Introit

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun.

**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.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Kyrie p. 152

Glory to God p. 154

Salutation & Collect p. 156

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in
heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your
people and grant us Your peace through all our days;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7 (ESV)

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God."

And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (ESV)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Alleluia”

p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. John 1:29-42a (ESV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.' I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard

him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "*What are you seeking?*" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "*Come and you will see.*" So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.

Apostles' Creed	p. 159
Hymn of the Day	# 547
Sermon	"Behold!"

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Handchime Choir will ring "Here I am to Worship" during the gathering of our morning offerings.

"What Shall I Render"	p. 159
Service of the Sacrament	p. 160
Distribution Hymns	# 606, 618, 632
"Thank the Lord"	p. 164
Post-Communion Collect	p. 166
Benediction	p. 166
Closing Hymn	# 702

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

In our thoughts and prayers,

† Carmen Dschaak, Kyle Miller (Nona Blaisdell's brother), and Agnes Wiedrich.



Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 135 Offerings: \$3,852.00

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God's gift? That God would be the true Giver of the Lamb? Truly, we can never out give God: for all that we have is His.



Welcome to worship as Jesus reveals Himself to us as the Son of God in this season of Epiphany. In our worship this morning, Jesus reveals Himself to be “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Thanks be to God, for He has taken away our sin in the appearance of His Son, so that we would have the forgiveness of our sins. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon.

Gideons International: The mission of Gideons International is to win the lost for Christ, through the distribution of Bibles and New Testaments. The Gideons have placed or distributed more than 1.8 billion Bibles and New Testaments in more than 190 countries around the world. This morning, we welcome a representative from the Gideons who will share with us their work.

1 Peter: Please join us as we begin a study of the book of 1 Peter this morning.

Your 2014 Contribution Statement has either been emailed or is in your Church mailbox this morning. If you haven't picked up your 2014 offering envelopes, you can find them on the table outside Pastor's study.

An updated telephone directory of Concordia members has been completed. If you would like a copy, sign your name on the sheet of paper on the table in the fellowship hall. A copy will then be put in your Church mailbox.



The January calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet and November Council minutes are in the black stacking trays in the fellowship hall.



The January Human Care Project is collecting soup for Women's Action & Resource Center. Please put your donations in the shelf unit in the entryway. Thank you.

† This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Monday	7:00 pm	Sarah Guild
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Bible Class
Wednesday	3:30 pm	1 st -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 nd -year Catechism
	7:00 pm	Chime Practice
	7:30 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	2:30 pm	<i>Pastor @ Marian Manor Glen Ullin</i>
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Church: 873-4388 Parsonage: 873-4223
revheller@westriv.com
concordiasecretary@westriv.com
Website: www.concordiabeulah.org

*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or
Communion attendance this morning.*