



NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHALL NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE

*eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16



4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

### Worship Service

*Sunday, March 11, 2018 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourth Sunday in LENT

**Theme of the day:** Traditionally this Sunday was called *Laetare*, "Rejoice" Sunday. We rejoice in the middle of Lent that God has so fully and so perfectly taken to heart our only real need as sinners and satisfied it in Christ.

### 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.

# **The Service of the Word**

**OPENING HYMN: # 106 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”**

♪ **Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
You shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
He that drinks shall thirst no more.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**He that drinks shall live forever; ’Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.**

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*)

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**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.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### OH, TASTE AND SEE

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score consists of six lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first line of music starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are" are written below the first line of music. The second line of music continues the melody with the lyrics "they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -". The third line of music continues with the lyrics "ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -". The fourth line of music continues with the lyrics "ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -". The fifth line of music continues with the lyrics "ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good." The sixth line of music concludes the piece with the lyrics "Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score ends with a double bar line.

**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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the Light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C:     ♪ Amen.

*Please be seated.*

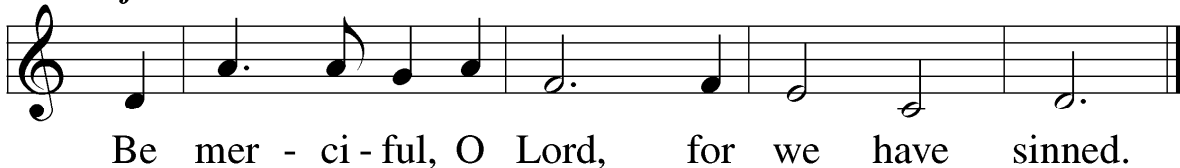
## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Ephesian 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 38

#### *Refrain*



#### *Psalm tone*



**O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger\*  
or discipline me in your wrath.**

**For your arrows have pierced me,\*  
and your hand has come down upon me.**

**My guilt has overwhelmed me\*  
like a burden too heavy to bear.**

***Refrain***

**All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;\*  
my sighing is not hidden from you.**

**I wait for you, O LORD;\*  
you will answer, O Lord my God.**

**Come quickly to help me,\*  
O Lord my Savior.**

**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:** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith;

**C:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal  
life. (John 3:16)

## **GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

## **HYMN: # 391 “God Loved the World so that He Gave”**

♪ God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save  
That all who would in him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die—  
His Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word does teach  
How we the blessed goal may reach.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son  
Forgives the sins that you have done.  
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood;  
Baptized, you are a child of God.

When you are sick, when death draws near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death—  
This is the anchor of my faith!

**Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!**

### **SERMON: Numbers 21:4-9**

**<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”**

**<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.**

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.**

*Please stand.*

### **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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn: # 379 “Amazing Grace”**

**♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**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.

## **HYMN # 440 "On Eagles' Wings"**

♪ You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in his shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain:*

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

Snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under his wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield.   *Refrain*

For to his angels he's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
*Refrain*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Brunssens.

### **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday** Voters, 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday** Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.  
**Thursday** Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Information Class, 11:15 a.m.  
**Friday** Atascadero Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.  
**Sunday** Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Pot Luck Lunch Fellowship - after service

**Lenten Services:** Instruments of the Passion:  
Wednesday, February 21 - Peter's sword  
Wednesday, February 28 - the crown of thorns  
Wednesday, March 7 - Via Dolorosa  
**Wednesday, March 14 - the sign above the cross**  
Wednesday, March 21 - the seamless robe

### **COMING UP**

**Work Day:** Saturday, March 24, 9:00-12:00

**Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday - March 25, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Maundy Thursday - March 29, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Good Friday - March 30, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday - April 1, 10:00 a.m.**

**FELLOWSHIP/GAME NIGHTS** - Beginning Wednesday,  
**April 11, 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.  
Join us for “fun and games” here at Star every third Wednesday  
of the month.  
Bring your favorite game or learn to play someone else’s  
favorite.  
Popcorn will be provided and any other snack you prefer will  
be happily accepted.  
Questions? Call Noreen and/or Carolyn.

**EASTER MEMORY GARDEN:** Forms are available in the  
narthex and the fellowship hall for providing flowers for Easter.

**VBS** - Seeking interested parties for helping with this major  
event for the end of June.

