

**"AND I
WHEN I AM LIFTED UP...
WILL DRAW
ALL PEOPLE
TO MYSELF."**

John 12:32



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Worship Service

Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT

Theme of the day: The readings today tie Lent with both Epiphany and Easter. In them Jesus shows his glory as a saving glory but a glory that is hidden under a blanket of suffering and a veil of humiliation.

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.

OPENING HYMN: # 256 “How Great Thou Art”

♪ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
“How great thou art! How great thou art!”
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
“How great thou art! How great thou art!”

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, *Refrain*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

Please stand for last verse:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great thou art!” *Refrain*

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: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with
humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our
sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful,
and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and
actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior
Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Prayer and Praise

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C:  **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C:  **Christ, have mercy.**


M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C:  **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C.  **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

 **O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.**

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

- ³¹ **“The time is coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.**
- ³² **It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.**
- ³³ **“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God, and they will be my people.**
- ³⁴ **No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”**

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 143

Refrain



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm tone



**O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;*
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.**

**Do not bring your servant into judgment,*
for no one living is righteous before you.**

**My spirit grows faint within me;*
my heart within me is dismayed.**

Refrain

**Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.**

**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.**

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

**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. For the joy set before him he endured the cross.

C: **The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)**

Gospel Lesson: John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Hymn: # 122 “Sing, my Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

♪ Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay.
Tell how Christ, the world’s Redeemer,
As a victim won the day.

**Tell how, when at length the fullness
Of th' appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman,
Left for us his Father's home,
Blazed the path of true obedience,
Shone as light amidst the gloom.**

**Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did his work and met his death;
Like a lamb he humbly yielded On the cross his dying breath.**

**Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit your equal be,
Symbol of the world's redemption,
For your burden makes us free.**

**Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To th' eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done—
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.**

Sermon: Hebrews 5:7-9

⁷During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

The Holy Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

M: Lift up your hearts.


C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.


C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**


M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.


 **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

The Words of Institution

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  **Amen.**

 **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world grant us your peace. Amen.**

Hymn Verses during Communion: # 377, vv. 1,5,6

 **Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**He spoke to his beloved Son: “’Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown,
And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever.”**

**The Son obeyed his Father’s will,
Was born of virgin mother,
And, God’s good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow’r he wore;
A servant’s form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.**

Thanksgiving - Hymn 277, verse 1

Please stand.



**God, we praise you! God, we bless you!
God, we name you sov’ reign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship,
Father, by your Church adored:
All creation shows your glory;
Heav’n and earth draw near your throne,
Singing, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts and God alone!”**


Prayer of Thanks

**M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have
praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which
have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again,
and that all who have received in his true body and blood the
pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy
life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**


C.  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.

CLOSING HYMN: # 433 “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

 **Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life’s tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach’rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild.
Boist’rous waves obey thy will
When thou say’st to them, “Be still!”
Wondrous Sov’reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on thy breast,
May I hear thee say to me,
“Fear not! I will pilot thee.”**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by Pat Murphy.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday Lenten Service - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Information Class, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday Cleaning & Work Day, 9:00 a.m.-noon

**Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

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

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.

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

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.

LADIES GET-TOGETHER: Saturday, May 26. Mark your calendars now.

LWMS SPRING RALLY: April 21st, 9:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3734 S. Centinela, L.A.
(310) 397-1201 Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

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

HELP WANTED: Looking for assistance in the AV department (music and slides for services, streaming, website updating, etc.) No experience necessary. Will train.



