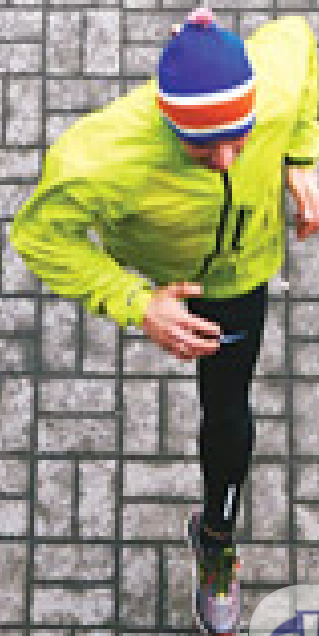




NORTHWESTERN
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I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL

PHILIPPIANS 3:14



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, April 7, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: On our journey to the cross and tomb: we have seen our Savior's battle waged against temptation; we have found confidence in his resolution to carry out the Father's plan; we have turned to him at his invitation to draw near with repentant hearts; we have rejoiced in his loving and forgiving embrace. In these last hours before Holy Week, we put our past ways behind us and strive for that for which Christ has laid hold of us.

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: # 714 “The Lamb”

♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, his will, On our behalf the law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

Please stand for last verse:

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

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: Isaiah 43:16-21

**This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.
The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the desert
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.**

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 73

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone



*

I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

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: **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: Luke 20:9-19

⁹ He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time.

¹⁰ At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹² He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

¹³ “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

¹⁴ “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “May this never be!”

¹⁷ Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone’?

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”

¹⁹ The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

HYMN: # 382 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before his throne.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

SERMON: Philippians 3:7-14

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Please stand.

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 incar-
nate 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 pro-
ceeds 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

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy king-
dom 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.**

The Holy Sacrament

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.

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.

C:  **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: # 401

 **Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak gladness to this heart.
They tell me all is done; They bid my fear depart.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my sinful soul;
Your wounds, not mine, contain
The balm that makes me whole.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the dreadful load
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**Your righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;
No other righteousness Can set a sinner free.
To whom but you, who can alone
For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

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: # 752 "In Christ Alone"

**♪ In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS Pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, Bob and Carol Munk, John Velasques, Douglas Ward, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Albert Nunez, Judy Moore, and Lynn (Carp) Oberg.

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

THIS WEEK

Monday	Circuit Meeting, Tarzana Voters, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Midweek Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Clean-up & Work Day, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - April 14, 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - April 21, 10:00 a.m.



Ash Wednesday	Is It I?
Midweek 2	Love One Another
Midweek 3	Watch and Pray
Midweek 4	I Am He
Midweek 5	What Is Truth?

Midweek 6 Take Him Away!

Palm Sunday	Save Us Now!
Maundy Thursday	Take and Eat; Take and Drink
Good Friday	It Is Finished!

I consider everything a loss compared



**to the surpassing greatness of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

Philippians 3:8

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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