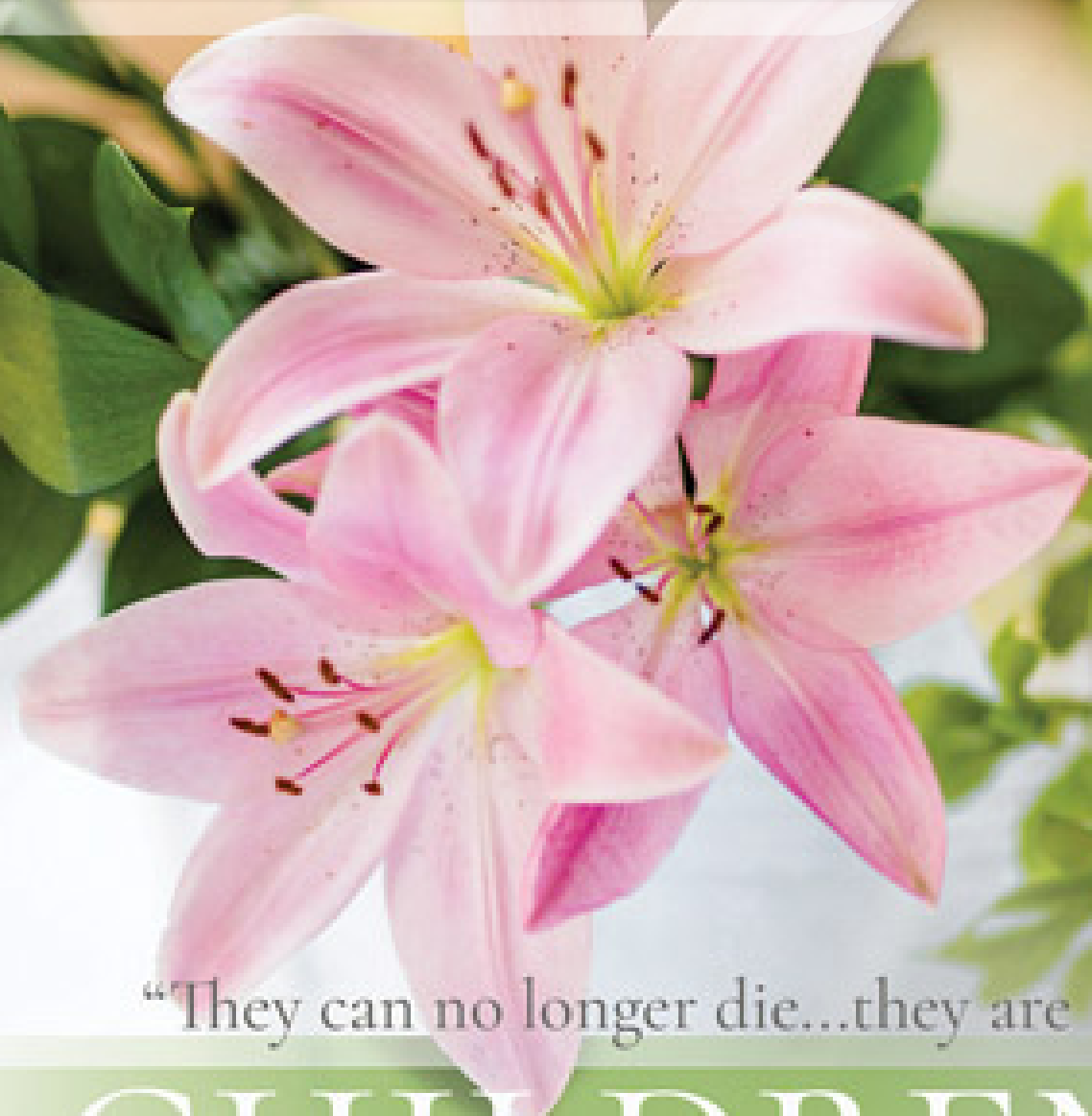




**NORTHWESTERN  
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“They can no longer die...they are

**CHILDREN**

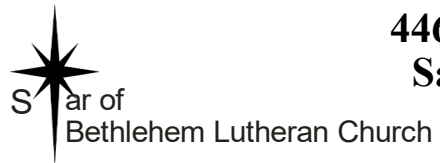
OF THE

*Resurrection.*”

— LUKE 24:6 —



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 17, 2019 10:00 a.m.*

### Third Sunday of End Time

### SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

**Theme of the day:** Lord, keep us watchful for our triumph! Today the Church hears the strains of the distant triumph song and affirms, "Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb." Jesus wants us to be the waiting Church — the Church that watches for her Savior and cries, "Come, Lord Jesus!" As we journey through these last times our vigilance slips and our hearts get drowsy. So we pray, "Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may enjoy his feast forever in heaven."

## 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.

## **WE ENTER THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**

### **OPENING HYMN: # 222 “Songs of Praise the Angels Sang”**

♪ **Songs of praise the angels sang,  
Heav’n with alleluias rang,  
When creation was begun,  
When God spoke and it was done.**

**Songs of praise awoke the morn  
When the Prince of Peace was born.  
Songs of praise arose when he  
Captive led captivity.**

**Heav’n and earth must pass away;  
Songs of praise shall crown that day.  
God will make new heav’ns and earth;  
Songs of praise shall hail their birth.**

**And shall man alone be still?  
Has he neither breath nor skill?  
No, the Church delights to raise  
Psalms and hymns and songs of praise.**

**Saints below, with heart and voice,  
Still in songs of praise rejoice,  
Learning here, by faith and love,  
Songs of praise to sing above.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Whispered with their final breath,  
Songs of praise shall conquer death.  
Then, amidst eternal joy,  
Songs of praise their pow’rs employ.**

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: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour  
when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep  
us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with  
him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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 65:17-25**

<sup>17</sup>Watch this! I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered.

They will not come to mind.

<sup>18</sup>Instead, rejoice and celebrate forever,

because of what I am creating.

Watch this!

I am about to create Jerusalem to be a source of gladness,  
and her people will be a source of joy.

<sup>19</sup>I also will be glad because of Jerusalem,  
and I will rejoice over my people.

The sound of weeping will not be heard in her again,  
nor will the sound of crying.

- <sup>20</sup>There will never again be an infant there who lives for only a few days, or an elderly man who does not fill out all his days, for one who dies at a hundred will be considered a young man, and one who fails to attain the age of one hundred will be regarded as cursed.
- <sup>21</sup>Then they will build houses and live in them.  
They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- <sup>22</sup>They will not build a house and have another person live in it.  
They will not plant and have another person eat the crop,  
for the days of my people will be like the days of a tree,  
and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands.
- <sup>23</sup>They will not labor only to receive nothing,  
and they will not give birth to children doomed to disaster,  
for they will be offspring who are blessed by the LORD,  
and their descendants will be with them.
- <sup>24</sup>Then even before they call, I will answer.  
While they are still speaking, I will hear.
- <sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb will graze together,  
and lions will eat straw like cattle,  
but the serpent will eat dust as its food.  
They will not harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

### Psalm of the Day: Psalm 150



Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.

**Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

***Refrain***

**Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,**

**praise him with tambourine and dancing,  
praise him with strings and flute,**

**praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
praise him with resounding cymbals.**

***Refrain***


**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.\*  
Praise the LORD.**

**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: Alleluia. Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve  
him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (*Revelation 7:15*)**

**C:  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 20:27–38**

<sup>27</sup>Some of the Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to him. <sup>28</sup>They asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother should take the wife and raise up children for his brother. <sup>29</sup>So there were seven brothers. The first took a wife and died childless. <sup>30</sup>The second took her as a wife, <sup>31</sup>and so did the third, and in the same way the seven died and left no children. <sup>32</sup>Finally the woman died too. <sup>33</sup>So in the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup>But those who are considered worthy to experience that age and the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. <sup>36</sup>In fact, they cannot die any more, for they are like the angels. They are sons of God, because they are sons of the resurrection.

<sup>37</sup>“Even Moses showed in the account about the burning bush that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord: ‘The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ <sup>38</sup>He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for all are alive to him.”

**Hymn: # 776 “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”**

*(sung to the tune of #169)*

♪ Sing with all the saints in glory,  
Sing the resurrection song!  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,  
To the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking,  
Soon the storms of time shall cease;  
In God's likeness we awaken,  
Knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding  
All that eye has yet perceived!  
Faithful hearts for ages pleading  
Never that full joy conceived.  
God has promised, Christ prepares it,  
There on high our welcome waits.  
All believing spirits share it,  
Christ has passed the eternal gates.



**Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:  
Jesus lives who once was dead.  
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!  
Child of God, lift up your head!  
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders  
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,  
When, amid earth's closing thunders,  
Saints shall stand before the throne!**

**Sermon: 2 Thessalonians 2:13–3:5**

**<sup>13</sup>But we are always obligated to thank God for you, brothers, loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation by the sanctifying work of the Spirit and faith in the truth. <sup>14</sup>For this reason he also called you through our gospel so that you would obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup>So then, brothers, stand firm and hold on to the teachings that were passed along to you, either by word of mouth or by a letter from us. <sup>16</sup>May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and in his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup>encourage your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.**

**<sup>3:1</sup>Finally, brothers, pray for us so that the word of the Lord may spread quickly and be glorified just as it was among you. <sup>2</sup>Pray also that we may be rescued from evil and wicked people. For not everyone has faith. <sup>3</sup>Still, the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and protect you from the Evil One. <sup>4</sup>We also have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we are telling you. <sup>5</sup>May the Lord continue to direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's patient endurance.**

**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:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

**M:** Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. 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.**

**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 sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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: # 551**

**♪ For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
All who their faith before the world confessed,  
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight  
And in the darkness drear their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine,  
Yet all are one within your grand design. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors comes their rest.  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds to ocean's farthest coast  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Thanksgiving**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads  
his people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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: # 605 “Asleep in Jesus! Blessed Sleep”**

**Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wakes to weep,  
A calm and undisturbed repose,  
Unbroken by the last of foes.**

**Asleep in Jesus! Oh, how sweet  
To be for such a slumber meet,  
With holy confidence to sing  
That death has lost his venom'd sting!**

**Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest,  
Whose waking is supremely blest;  
No fear, no woe, shall dim that hour  
That manifests the Savior's pow'r.**

**Asleep in Jesus! Oh, for me  
May such a blissful refuge be!  
Securely shall my ashes lie  
And wait the summons from on high.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS** Pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Albert Nunez, Judy & Jim Moore, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's grand-daughter), Austin Barnard, Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Molly Webb, Jim Moore (Jr.) and family, Bob Ward, and Kathryn Pereira.

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Noreen Withers for birthday blessings.

**OFFERINGS** from this year's Thanksgiving Day service, (Thursday, November 23) will be sent to our synod's **Christian Aid & Relief**. It is used for times of natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, famines, fires) and for humanitarian aid (like food for people in Malawi).

**POINSETTIAS** are being planned for the Christmas season. Look for signup sheet in the narthex.

### **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

### **COMING UP**

**Thanksgiving Day Service**, November 28, 10:00 a.m.  
**Soup Supper & Advent Worship** - Wednesday, Dec. 4  
**Ladies' Christmas Party**, Saturday, December 7  
**Caroling and Christmas Party**, December 15  
**Living Nativity**, December 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Las Posadas**, 6:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve** - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day** - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.

# 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.*