



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Are you
the one

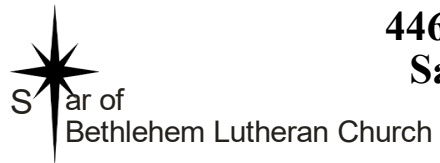
who is to come,

or should we expect
someone else?

— Matthew 11:3 —



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, December 15, 2019 10:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY in ADVENT

Theme of the day: In this season of Advent (Coming) we focus on the three “comings” of Christ: his coming into this world as a baby to put himself in our place and to pay for our sins, his coming in glory at the last day to take us into the full enjoyment of our salvation, and his coming into our hearts through the power of his word which gives us faith and makes that salvation our own. And that leads us to REJOICE...

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: # 12 “Hark the Glad Sound!”

♪ **Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.**

**He comes the captives to release,
In Satan’s prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst;
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**

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 AND ABSOLUTION

M: God, through Moses, commanded his people, “The man or woman who sins against his neighbor, betrays the Lord and will have to answer for it. He should confess his sin.”

Silence to reflect on the Word of God

♪ **Song: Jesus Sinners Does Receive (# 304)**

♪ **Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.**

M: We confess our sins both seen and unseen in thought, word, and action, according to the words of Psalm 51:

C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me!

M: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. He gives us this great comfort: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.” The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

Please be seated.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING INTROIT *(Hymn 38)*

♪ **Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christchild lying there.**

M: The darkness of sin and unbelief are shattered by the light of the Gospel. The **Prophecy Candle** gives us the first flicker of hope as we watch for the coming of the Lord.

C: Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mark 13:33)

The Prophecy Candle is lit.

M: The Bethlehem Candle calls us to repent. See in Jesus the Light of the world. Change your hearts so that you may live as children of the light.

C: “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

(Matthew 3:3)

The Bethlehem Candle is lit.

M: The Shepherd Candle points to our joy as God’s people. In Jesus we have all that matters. In joy and peace we ask God to keep us in the faith and faithful in our lives.

C: The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

The Shepherd Candle is lit.

The Shepherd Candle



♪ **Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.**

M: May the light of these candles call to mind the glorious light of the Gospel, shining in the birth of our Savior. May his grace enlighten our lives, both now and forever.

♪ **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.**

First Lesson: James 5:7-11

⁷Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain.

⁸You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 146

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*
the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,*
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

**The LORD watches over the outcast*
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

**The LORD remains faithful forever.*
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**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. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (*Matthew 11:10*)

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

Second Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

²While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see:

⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see?

A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
¹¹Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Hymn: # 414 "I Leave All Things to God's Direction"

**♪ I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in wealth and woe.
His will is good, sure his affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is he:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon his hands he did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**My God desires the soul's salvation;
My soul he, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**My God has all things in his keeping;
He is my ever-faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all his ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

Sermon: Job 1:6-22

⁶ There came a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came into their midst. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming the earth and walking around on it.”

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a man who is blameless and upright, who fears God and turns away from evil.”

⁹ Satan answered the LORD, “Is it without cause that Job fears God? ¹⁰ You have put a protective hedge around him and his household and everything that belongs to him, haven’t you? You have blessed the work of his hands. His livestock has spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But just stretch out your hand and strike everything that is his, and he will certainly curse you to your face!”

¹² So the LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then. Everything that he has is in your hand. But you may not stretch out your hand against the man himself.” So Satan left the presence of the LORD.

¹³ One day when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the flocks and the servants and consumed them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and plundered the camels and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and were drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother. ¹⁹ Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on the young people, and they died, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

²⁰ Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshipped. ²¹ Then he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be blessed.”

²² In all this, Job did not sin or blame God.

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
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: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed
your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's
head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes
of your people to the advent of their Savior.**

**C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending
your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

**M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty
Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber
and apathy.**

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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.

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. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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: # 16 “On Jordan’s Bank”

♪ **On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings**

**Good news about the King of kings.
Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**


**All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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: # 415 “Be Still, My Soul”

 **Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.**

**Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
Then you will better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given by Michael Gowin in thankfulness for his 50th birthday and his sobriety.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS for 2019: The new flower chart is now available for signing up, in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK

Today	Caroling 1:30 p.m. Christmas Party (appetizers & white elephants), 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Catechism Class. 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship , 10:00 a.m. Living Nativity, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Las Posadas, 6:00 p.m.

COMING UP

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.



**...because
the coming
of the Lord
is near...**

James 5:8



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