



CHURCH SUPPLY WAREHOUSE

O COME,
ALL YE

Faithful

JOYFUL
AND
TRIUMPH

CHURCH SUPPLY WAREHOUSE



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Worship Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Theme of the day: “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Just as Mary, on the very first Christmas, we too meditate on the mystery of Christmas. Christ was born in order to live, die and rise from the grave for us! The Word became flesh and through faith we see his glory! Glory to God in the highest!

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.

ENTRANCE INTO GOD'S HOUSE

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

M: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

M: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples

C: but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

M: Nations will come to your light,

C: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

M: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C: And the government will be on his shoulders.

M: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

M: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

♪ **Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!
Oh come, let us adore Him! Oh come, let us adore Him!
Oh come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord! (CW 55)**

M: Beloved people of God, at Christmas it is our duty and our joy to listen again to the message of the angels and go in mind and heart to Bethlehem and see what has happened that the Lord has told us about this child, Jesus Christ who is lying in a manger. Today we read and learn anew in the Holy Scriptures the story of God's enduring love for his people. We see his promises made and his promises kept from the time immediately after the fall into sin until the act of redemption

on the cross of Calvary. We rejoice that God's grace has appeared through this holy child born in Bethlehem—our Savior. But first, we pray for all the people of the world that they would rejoice with us in the knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ, and that they would join with us in our songs of praise and worship. We pray for all the people of our community and the members of our congregation. And because it pleases God our Savior, we remember in his name the poor and the defenseless, those who lack adequate food, those who are oppressed and feel the sadness of this world, those who feel alone and unloved. We especially remember those who do not know their Lord Jesus, those that do not love him, those who do not welcome him this Christmas because of their lack of faith. We lay these and all like requests in the hands of our gracious God as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

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.

♪ **Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,
“To God in the highest all glory be given!”
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! (CW 55)**

FIRST LESSON - Genesis 3:8-15

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

♪ **Song: From Heav’n Above** (CW 38)

**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.**

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

SECOND LESSON - Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

♪ **Song: What Child is This** (CW 67)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

THIRD LESSON - Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

♪ **Song: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel** *(CW 23)*

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

FOURTH LESSON - Isaiah 11:1-5

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

♪ **Song: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt** (CW 54)

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.**

**In that unlikely place I find him as they said;
Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.**

**How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

FIFTH LESSON - Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

♪ Song: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (CW 6)

**Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us
By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to your glorious throne.**

SIXTH LESSON - Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

♪ Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**It came upon a midnight clear That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth good will to men
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.**

**“Fear not and harken to the sound ye mortals of the earth;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all the earth:
For unto you is born this day a Babe in Bethlehem.
The Child is Jesus Christ the Lord
Who’ll save the world from sin.”**

**Glad tidings of great joy were sung By all the heav’nly host.
And through the fields and cities rang
The joyful message of hope:
“To God in heav’n be glory, the promise has been fulfilled,
May peace and joy be found tonight In all the weary world.”**

SEVENTH LESSON - Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

♪ Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW 65)

**How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel**

EIGHTH LESSON - Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

♪ Song: As with Gladness Men of Old (CW 83)

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your followers be.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.**

NINTH LESSON - Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

♪ Song: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (CW 61)

**Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"**

MESSAGE: Luke 2:13,14

Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

THE SECOND ARTICLE

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. *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

THE OFFERING

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of our Savior's birth remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

(Tune of "Away in a Manger" CW #68)

**♪ Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In time of temptation, to lead us, be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle. As you pass the light on, never tip a lighted candle. Always tip the unlighted candle toward the one that is burning.)

♪ **Song: Silent night** (CW 60)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht
/shteelay nahkt highlikkay nahkt/ /alles shlayft ine sum vahkt/

Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
/noor dass troutay hoke highlikkay par/

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
/ holder k-nobbay im lokigen hahr/

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
/shlaaf in himmlish ayr roo-oo shlaaf in himmlish ayr roo-oo/

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

M: 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.

Extinguishing your candles.

♪ **Song: Joy to the World** (CW 62)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- † **WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS.** We would be very appreciative if you would sign our guest book in the narthex.
- † **BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL** are every Sunday at 9:00 before worship.
- † **WORSHIP SERVICE** is at 10:00 a.m.

