



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

*“Rejoice
and be glad,
because*

GREAT
IS YOUR REWARD

in heaven...”

MATTHEW 5:12



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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

Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Theme of the day: The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength! The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a Christianity imbued with fatalism at best or defeatism at worst. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are, the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the more ready you are to trust in a future reward. Trust God's grace and you will find many reasons to trust his strength.

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: # 223 “As We Begin Another Week”

♪ As we begin another week,
In Jesus’ name your grace we seek.
God, grant that through these seven days
No evil may befall our ways.

Your gentle blessings, Lord, outpour
On all our labors evermore.
Our hearts with your good Spirit fill
That we may gladly do your will.

In ev’ry season, ev’ry place,
May we recall your Word of grace
Until, when life’s brief day is past,
We reach eternal joy at last

Please stand for last verse:

And keep with angels in your rest
The endless Sabbath of the blest.
Grant this to us through Christ, your Son,
Who reigns with you upon your 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**

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.

M: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C:  Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Listen now to what the LORD is saying!

Get up. Plead your case to the mountains.

Let the hills hear your voice.

²Listen, you mountains, to the accusation from the LORD.

Pay attention, you enduring foundations of the earth, because the LORD is presenting a case against his people, and he is indicting Israel.

³My people, what have I done to you, and how have I made you weary? Answer me!

⁴I was the one who brought you up from the land of Egypt. I redeemed you from the place where you were slaves.

I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam ahead of you.

⁵My people, remember what Balak king of Moab planned, and how Balaam son of Beor responded to him when you were about to travel from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you may acknowledge the LORD's righteous acts.

⁶With what am I to appear before the LORD?

How should I bow down to God on high?

Should I appear before him with burnt offerings, with one-year-old calves?

⁷Will the LORD be delighted with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of streams of oil?

Should I give my firstborn for my rebellion, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has told you, mankind, what is good.

What does the LORD require from you, except to carry out justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 1

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment*,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous*,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Hymn: # 125 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**♪ When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Sermon: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain.

When he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

**³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
because they will be comforted.**

**⁵Blessed are the gentle,
because they will inherit the earth.**

**⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
because they will be filled.**

**⁷Blessed are the merciful,
because they will receive mercy.**

**⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they will see God.**

**⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they will be called sons of God.**

**¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is
how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**

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

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.

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. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.
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: # 383 “Blessed Are They”

**♪ Blessed are they, forever blest,
Whose guilt is pardoned by their God,
Whose sins with sorrow are confessed
And covered with their Savior’s blood.**

**Blessed are they to whom the Lord
Imputes not their iniquity.
They plead no merit or reward
And not on works but grace rely.**

**From guile their hearts and lips are free;
Their humble joy, their holy fear
With deep repentance well agree
And join to prove their faith sincere.**

**How glorious is that righteousness
That hides and cancels all their sins,
While bright the evidence of grace
Through all their lives appears and shines!**

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.

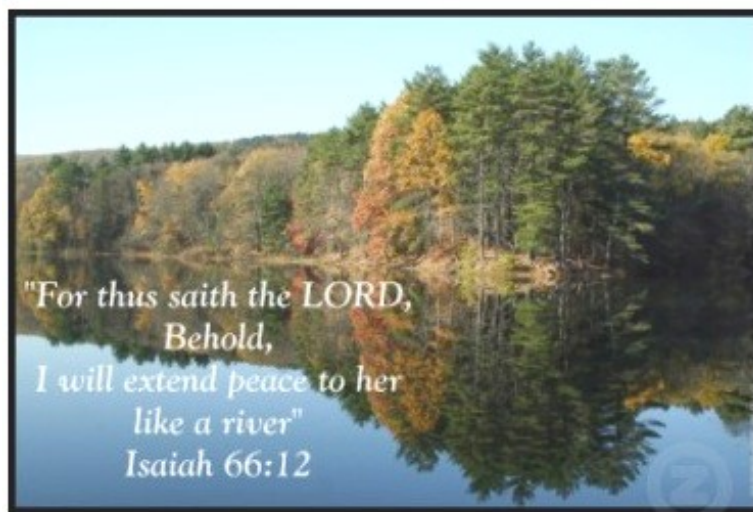
C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: # 760 “When Peace Like a River”

♪ “When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul).
It is well, it is well with my soul.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl 3's birthday.

PRAYERS Remember to 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), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Molly Webb, Jim Moore (Jr.) and family, Bob Ward, Kathryn Pereira, George Caravana, Alice Taubman, Crisanna Terrell, and Don Fabian.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	Elders, 10:00 a.m. ESL (English as a Second Language), 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, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Voters' Meeting, after

When Peace Like a River

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my
 2 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
 3 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be

way, When sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— What -
 thought— My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is
 sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The

ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 nailed to the cross, and I bear it no
 trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de -

say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 scend; E - ven so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul.

It is well with my

soul.



For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous ...

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.