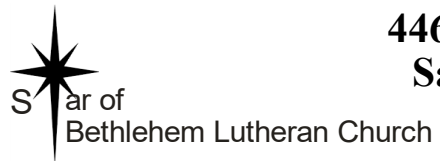


*ASH*



*Wednesday*



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[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

### Worship Service

*Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

*7:00 p.m.*



**Thought for the day:** Return to the Lord! Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal. Recognition of our sin leads us to cry out for mercy and trust in God's promised forgiveness. Return to the Lord for he is gracious! Having obtained his pardon, we seek a renewal of faith and life that we might live as baptized children of God.

### 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: # 124 “Savior, When in Dust to You”**

♪ **Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due,  
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
Oh, by all your pains and woe Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!**

**By your helpless infant years, By your life of want and tears,  
By your days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of th’ insulting tempter’s pow’r,  
Turn, oh, turn a fav’ring eye, Hear our penitential cry!**

**By your hour of dire despair, By your agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies O’er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh, Hear our penitential cry!**

*Please stand for second verse:*

**By your deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,  
Oh, from earth to heav’n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!**

## **REFLECTION ON LENT; SELF-EXAMINATION**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

Minister: Most holy and merciful Father,

Congregation: **We confess to you and to one another that we have  
sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**M**: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and  
strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have  
not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C**: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*M: Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.*

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives,*

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

*M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our manipulation of other people*

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

*M: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

*M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

*M: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,*

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

*M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,*

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

*M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,*

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

*M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,*

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

*M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;*

**C: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

**M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.**

**Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **LESSON: 2 Corinthians 7:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>For even if I caused you sorrow with my letter, I do not regret it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter caused you sorrow—yet only for a little while). <sup>9</sup>Now I rejoice, not because you were made to feel sorrow, but because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Yes, you were made sorry in a godly way. So you were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup>In fact, godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.

<sup>11</sup>Yes, look what godly sorrow produced in you: what diligence, what eagerness to clear yourself, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what correction! In every way you proved yourselves to be pure in this matter. <sup>12</sup>So although I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did what was wrong, or because of the one who was harmed by it. I wrote instead so that your genuine concern for us would be revealed to you in the sight of God. <sup>13</sup>For that reason we have been comforted.

## **PSALM 51a**

M: O Lord, hear my voice.

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

M: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

**C: O Lord, who could stand?**

M: But with you there is forgiveness;

**C: therefore you are feared.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

**C: and in his word I put my hope.**

M: My soul waits for the Lord  
**C: more than watchmen wait for the morning,**

M: O Israel,  
**C: put your hope in the LORD,**

M: for with the LORD is unfailing love  
**C: and with him is full redemption.**

M: He himself will redeem Israel  
**C: from all their sins.**

**M:** Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe  
your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may  
live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

**LESSON: Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others:

<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

<sup>13</sup>“However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**HYMN: #128 “Not All the Blood of Beasts”**

♪ **Not all the blood of beasts On Israel’s altars slain  
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away,  
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.**

**In faith I place my hand On that dear head divine,  
As penitently here I stand And lay on him my sin.**

**My soul looks back to see The burden you did bear  
When hanging on the cursed tree—I know my guilt was there!**

**Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;  
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice  
And sing his bleeding love.**

**LESSON: Leviticus 4:1-3,22,27-31; 6:2-7**

**4 The LORD again told Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Tell these things to the Israelites.”**

**When a person sins unintentionally against any of the LORD’s commands by doing something which the LORD has prohibited, this is what you must do:**

**<sup>3</sup>If it is the anointed priest who sins and thereby brings guilt on the people, for the sin that he has committed he shall present a young bull without blemish as a sin offering to the LORD.**

**<sup>22</sup>When a tribal leader sins by unintentionally disobeying any of the commands of the LORD his God and doing something that should not be done, and he then realizes his guilt.**

**<sup>27</sup>If any common person from the land sins by unintentionally violating any of the LORD’s commands by doing something that should not be done, and he then realizes his guilt, <sup>28</sup>or the sin that he committed has been made known to him, he shall bring a female goat without blemish as his offering for the sin that he has committed. <sup>29</sup>He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering at the place for the burnt offering. <sup>30</sup>Then the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. All the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. <sup>31</sup>After he removes all its fat, just as the fat was removed from the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, the priest shall send it up in smoke on the altar as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. In this way the priest shall make atonement for him, so that he may be forgiven.**

**6 <sup>2</sup>If a person sins and commits an offense against the LORD by deceiving his fellow citizen about a deposit or an investment or something stolen, or if he has extorted something from his fellow citizen, <sup>3</sup>or if he has found something that was lost and he pretended it was his, or if he swears falsely about any offense that a person may commit in connection with any of these sins—<sup>4</sup>when he has sinned and then admits his guilt, he shall return what he has stolen, or what he has extorted, or the deposit which was entrusted to him, or**

the lost thing that he has found, <sup>5</sup>or anything else about which he has sworn falsely. He shall repay it in its entirety and then add one-fifth of its value to the payment. He shall pay this to its owner when he admits his liability. <sup>6</sup>Then he shall bring to the priest as his penalty to the LORD an unblemished ram from the flock (or its equivalent) as a restitution offering. <sup>7</sup>The priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, so that he may be forgiven for whatever he has done to incur liability.

**HYMN # 714 (vv. 1,3-5) "The Lamb, the Lamb"**

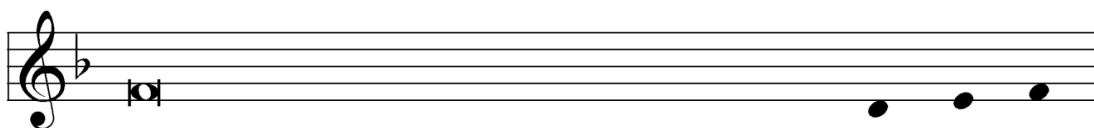
♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!  
Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, 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!

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!

**OFFERING**



**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.



**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**M:** For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**M:** For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



**C:** Thanks be to God.

**M:** In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



## **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.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And with your Spirit.

**M:** We lift up our hearts.

**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** It is good and right so to do.

## ***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

## ***DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER***

C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part  
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen  
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry  
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.  
C: A - men.

## **CLOSING HYMN: # 592 “All Praise to Thee, My God”**

♪ **All praise to thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath thine own almighty wings.  
Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son  
The ill that I this day have done,  
That with the world, myself, and thee  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die so that I may  
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.  
Oh, may my soul on thee repose  
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
To serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me distress.  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

