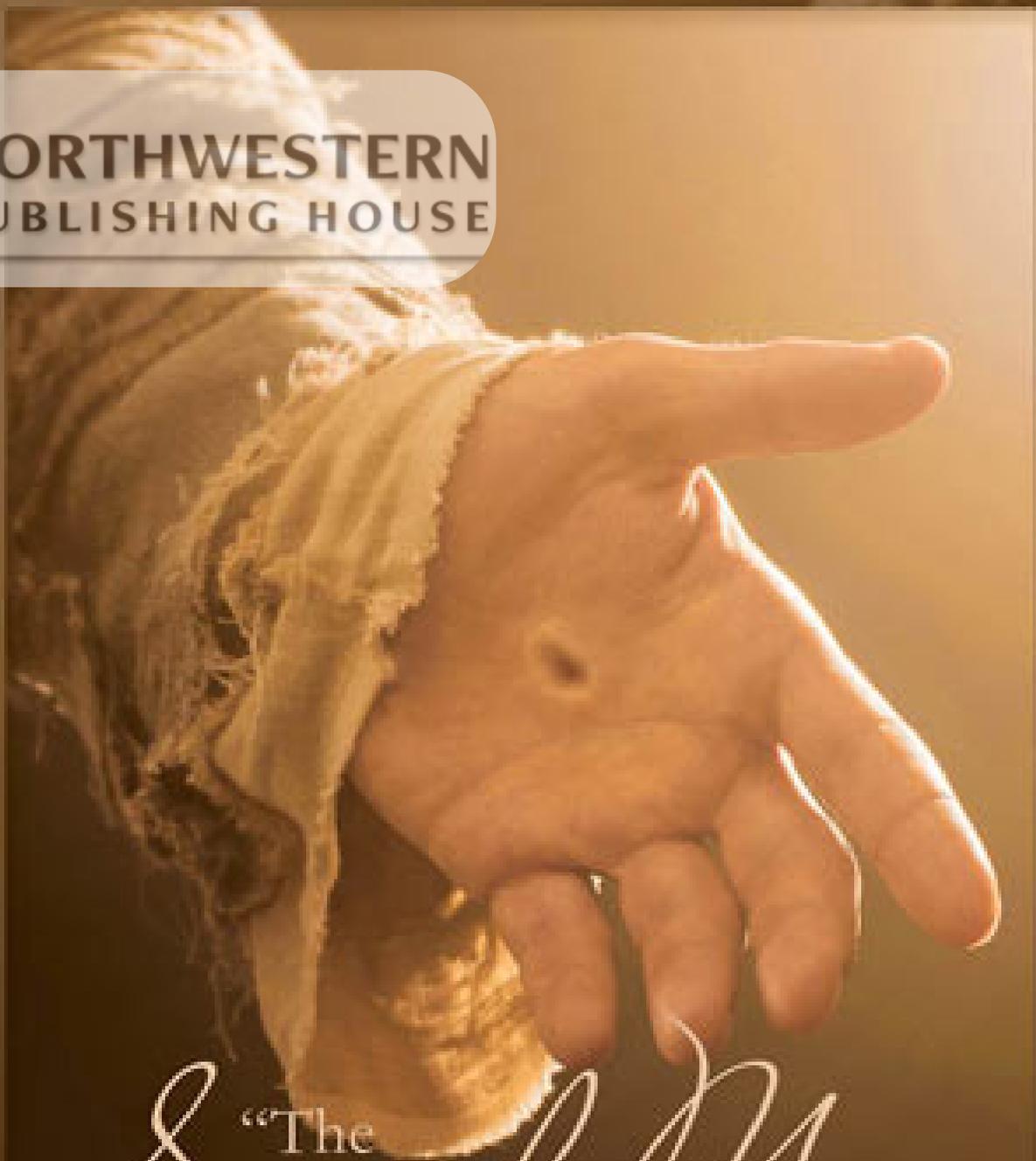




**NORTHWESTERN
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*“The
Son of Man
did not come to be served,*

BUT TO SERVE...”

Matthew 20:28



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley**

Worship Service

Sunday, March 22, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Theme of the day: Jesus calls us from sinful selfishness to selfless service. Selfishness puts self before all and leads to pride and envy. Repentance, however, means despairing of self, trusting in Christ, and leading lives of selfless service modeled after our Savior, who came to serve and give his life as a ransom.

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.

The Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN: # 446 “I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus”

♪ I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, Trusting only you,
Trusting you for full salvation, Free and true.

I am trusting you for pardon; At your feet I bow,
For your grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

I am trusting you for cleansing In the crimson flood,
Trusting you who made me holy By your blood.

I am trusting you to guide me; You alone shall lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying All my need.

I am trusting you for power; You can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me Must prevail.

Please stand for last verse:

I am trusting you, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever And for all.

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped and believed to the ends of the earth; through 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: Romans 8:1-10

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 42-43

Refrain



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

Psalm tone



As the deer pants for streams of water,*
so my soul pants for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*
Where can I go and meet with God?**

Why are you downcast, O my soul?*
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,*
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Refrain

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;*
let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.*
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. ¹⁹They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised.”

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. ²¹He said to her, “What do you want?”

She said to him, “Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand.”

²²But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?”

They said to him, “We are.”

²³He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers.

²⁵But Jesus summoned them and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

HYMN: # 460 (vv. 1-3) “How Can I Thank You, Lord”

♪ How can I thank you, Lord, For all your loving-kindness,
That you have patiently Borne with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev’ry day.

It is your work alone That I am now converted;
O’er Satan’s work in me You have your pow’r asserted.
Your mercy and your grace That rise afresh each morn
Have turned my stony heart Into a heart new-born.

Lord, you have raised me up To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away; For this I thank you, Lord.
Now with my heart and soul All evil I abhor.

SERMON: Hosea 5:15-6:6

- ¹⁵I will go. I will return to my place
until they admit their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will earnestly seek me.**
- ⁶Come, let us return to the LORD.
For he has torn us to pieces,
but he will heal us.
He has struck us,
but he will bandage our wounds.**
- ²After two days he will revive us.
On the third day he will raise us up,
so that we may live in his presence.**
- ³Let us acknowledge the LORD.
Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.
As surely as the sun rises,
the LORD will appear.
He will come to us like a heavy rain,
like the spring rain that waters the earth.**
- ⁴What am I going to do with you, Ephraim?
What am I going to do with you, Judah?
For your faithfulness is like a morning mist,
like early dew that disappears.**
- ⁵That is why I cut them to pieces by means of the prophets.
I killed them with the words of my mouth.
The judgments against you go forth like the light.**
- ⁶For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: # 486 (vv. 1,2,5) “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

**♪ Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th’ unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed ’Tis to give than to receive.**

**Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.**

(Offering plates are on back pews.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

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

Silent prayer.

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 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.

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: # 765 “Day by Day”

 **Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav’nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I’ll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o’er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life’s pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me

Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;

Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,

Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.

Sav - ior, lead me to the home I trea - sure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,

Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Here is the latest synod statement concerning our current health situation:

How will congregations handle government restrictions on public gatherings?

Various governmental bodies have either advised or mandated that no public meetings with more than 50 people can be held. Additional restrictions may be imposed in the future. Some may be asking the question, “Is this a time when we should obey God rather than men?”

A couple things should be remembered.

1. The Fourth and Fifth Commandments apply in a situation like this. We are to obey and respect the governing authorities as they carry out their God-given responsibilities, and we are to do all we can to protect our neighbor and keep him from harm.
2. At the same time God certainly desires that Christians gather together regularly for worship.
3. In limiting the size of worship gatherings, the government is not attempting to deny our freedom of religion. Rather, government authorities have issued mandates that they believe will protect citizens from harm.
4. Since all of these biblical principles are valid, it is legitimate for our congregations to strive to comply with governmental regulations on the one hand and, on the other, to find alternate means to enable God’s people to be fed with Word and Sacrament.

WELS Conference of Presidents

Sooooo....

As a congregation we need to try to balance our confidence in God’s care and protection with respect for others and the advice of our government.

For this reason, your congregational leaders propose that (at least for the time being) we plan to continue holding our public worship services while encouraging our people, for the present, and as much as possible to participate in our services using our live stream web broadcast at www.starlutheran.org.

Those who plan on attending our services in person will certainly practice good hygiene before, during and after the services. We will try to practice “social distancing,” attempting to maintain six feet between ourselves and other people. We will greet people with a smile and a

wave. No snacks or coffee will be offered. We will place the offering plate on a pew in the back and people can leave their offerings in the plate before or after the services.

Please stay home if you are in a demographic identified as vulnerable. And, of course, stay home if you are ill or not feeling well. God has blessed us with skilled and compassionate medical professionals to help us in times like this, so please avail yourselves of their services. I have cancelled ESL for the foreseeable future. We will also be forgoing the Fellowship meals (including Easter brunch) for the time being.

If the situation changes and we need to go to 100% digital worship, it would not be because we are not trusting God's protecting care. Rather, we would be making that decision out of love for others and respect for the advice of the government.

As things progress, please continue to pray and to do so with the sure confidence that our loving Father in heaven hears and answers.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Michael Foley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Albert Nunez, Jim Moore, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's granddaughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Jim Moore (Jr.) and family, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Alice Taubman, Don Fabian, and Doris Scheuffele.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday Lenten Service, *streamed*, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship, *streamed*, 10:00 a.m.

