



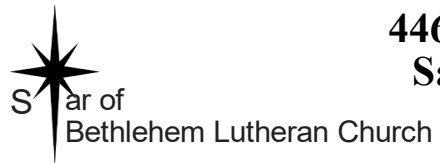
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“HERE’S THE  
BRIDEGROOM!  
COME OUT TO  
MEET HIM!”

- MATTHEW 25:6



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 15, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

### Third Sunday of End Time

### SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

**Theme of the day:** Lord, keep us watchful for our triumph! Today the Church hears the strains of the distant triumph song and affirms, “Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb.” Jesus wants us to be the waiting Church — the Church that watches for her Savior and cries, “Come, Lord Jesus!” As we journey through these last times our vigilance slips and our hearts get drowsy. So we pray, “Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may enjoy his feast forever in heaven.”

## 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: # 220 “O’er the Distant Mountains Breaking”**

♪ **O’er the distant mountains breaking  
Comes the redd’ning dawn of day.  
Rise, my soul, from sleep awaking;  
Rise and sing and watch and pray.  
'Tis your Savior, 'Tis your Savior,  
On his bright returning way.**

**Come, O Long-Expected; weary Waits my spirit anxiously.  
Life is dark and earth is dreary Where your light I cannot see.  
O my Savior, O my Savior, When will you return to me?**

**Nearer is my soul’s salvation; Spent the night, the day at hand.  
Keep me in my humble station, Watching for you till I stand,  
O my Savior, O my Savior,  
In your bright, your promised, land,**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**With my lamp well-trimmed and burning,  
Swift to hear and slow to stray,  
Watching for your glad returning,  
Waiting for the blessed day.  
Come, my Savior, Come, my Savior,  
O my Savior, quickly come!**

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**

### **Prayer and Praise**

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 glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your  
love. You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.**

**You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.**

**You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, 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: Isaiah 52:1-6**

**Wake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.  
Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, you holy city,  
for never again will the uncircumcised  
and the unclean enter you.**

**<sup>2</sup>Shake off the dust. Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.  
Loosen the chains from your neck,  
you captive daughter of Zion.**

**<sup>3</sup>Yes, this is what the LORD says. You were sold for nothing,  
and you will be redeemed without money.**

**<sup>4</sup>Yes, this is what the LORD God says.  
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there  
for a while.**

**Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.**

**<sup>5</sup>Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.  
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.  
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.  
My name is continually despised all day.**

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore my people will know my name.  
So on that day they will know that I am the one—  
the one who is saying, “Here I am!”**

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 84

### *Refrain*



### *Psalm tone*



How lovely is your dwelling place,\*  
O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,\*  
for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;\*  
they are ever praising you.

### *Refrain*

Better is one day in your courts\*  
than a thousand elsewhere;


I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God\*  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,\*  
blessed are they who trust in you.

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*

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (*Revelation 7:15*)


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

### **GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:1-13**

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

### **Hymn: # 550 “Behold a Host, Arrayed in White”**

 Behold a host, arrayed in white,  
Like thousand snowclad mountains bright;  
With palms they stand. Who is this band  
Before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame,  
Who from the great affliction came  
And in the flood Of Jesus’ blood  
Are cleansed from guilt and blame.  
Now gathered in the holy place,  
Their voices they in worship raise.  
Their anthems swell Where God does dwell  
Mid angels’ songs of praise.

**Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;  
But now, how glorious they appear!  
Those martyrs stand, A priestly band,  
God's throne forever near.  
So oft in troubled days gone by,  
In anguish they would weep and sigh;  
At home above The God of love  
Fore'er their tears shall dry.  
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,  
The heav'nly banquet of the blest;  
The Lamb, their Lord, At festive board  
Himself is host and guest.**

**O blessed saints, now take your rest;  
A thousand times you will be blessed  
For keeping faith Firm unto death  
And scorning worldly trust.  
For now you live at home with God;  
You toiled and sowed the Word abroad.  
Rejoice and bring Your fruits and sing  
Before the throne of God.  
The myriad angels raise the song;  
O saints, sing with that happy throng!  
Lift up one voice; Let heav'n rejoice  
In our Redeemer's song.**

**SERMON: Revelation 19:1-9**

**After these things I heard what seemed to be the loud sound of an immense crowd in heaven, saying:**

**Alleluia!**

**Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,**

**<sup>2</sup>for his judgments are true and just,**

**because he has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality,  
and he has avenged his servants' blood that was shed by her hand.**

**<sup>3</sup>A second time they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke goes up forever and ever."**

**<sup>4</sup>Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures bowed down and worshipped God, who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"**



**<sup>5</sup>And from the throne came a voice that said, “Praise our God, all you his servants and you who fear him, small and great.”**

**<sup>6</sup>And I heard what seemed to be the roar of a large crowd or the roar of many waters or the sound of loud rumblings of thunder, saying:**

**Alleluia!**

**For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.**

**<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,  
because the wedding of the Lamb has come.**

**His bride has made herself ready,**

**<sup>8</sup>and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.**

**(In fact, the fine linen is the “not guilty” verdicts pronounced on the saints.)**

**<sup>9</sup>The angel said to me, “Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.” He also said to me, “These are the true words of 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 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**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER:**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. 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.**

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. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

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 during Communion: # 743 “O Gracious Lord”**

*(music, page 15)*

♪ **O gracious Lord, I firmly am believing  
Your boundless love will bless each faithful soul,  
As from this altar we are here receiving  
Your body and your blood to make us whole,  
Your body and your blood to make us whole.**

**Lord, I have sinned, a thousand times offending;  
My thankless thoughts and words and deeds erase,  
To me your hand of mercy now extending,  
O God, my Savior, I implore your grace,  
O God, my Savior, I implore your grace.**

**You see my sin, yet seat me at your table;  
Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least:  
Unclean, unfit, of worthy deeds unable —  
My heart prepare for this most holy feast,  
My heart prepare for this most holy feast.**

**O Lamb of God, my faithful, loving Savior,  
 You I embrace in faith and holy love;  
 Grant me the strength to show by my behavior  
 A life now hidden in your reign above,  
 A life now hidden in your reign above.**


**Heavenly Bread, my life and benediction,  
 This cup you give can take away each ill.  
 Come and relieve my soul from all affliction;  
 Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still,  
 Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still.**

**Thanksgiving (CW # 219)**

*Please stand.*

Lord, when your glo - ry I shall see And taste your king-dom's  
 plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al robe shall be, My  
 joy be - yond all mea - sure! When I ap - pear be - fore your  
 throne, Your right - eous - ness shall be my crown; With  
 these I need not hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly  
 wrought, As your own bride I shall be brought To  
 stand in joy be - side you.


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: # 214 “Jerusalem the Golden”

 Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest—  
The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed.  
I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there,  
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song  
And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.  
The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;  
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.

There is the throne of David, And there, from care released,  
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast;  
And they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight  
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.

Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God’s elect!  
Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!  
Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest;  
You are with God the Father And Spirit ever blest.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERINGS** from this year's Thanksgiving Day service, (Thursday, November 26) will be sent to our synod's **Christian Aid & Relief**. It is used for times of natural disasters and humanitarian aid.

**PRAYERS** Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's granddaughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, and Doug Ward.

**MEDITATIONS** for the next quarter are on the shelf in the narthex. Treat yourself (and maybe someone you know) to this very beneficial devotional resource.

## COMING UP

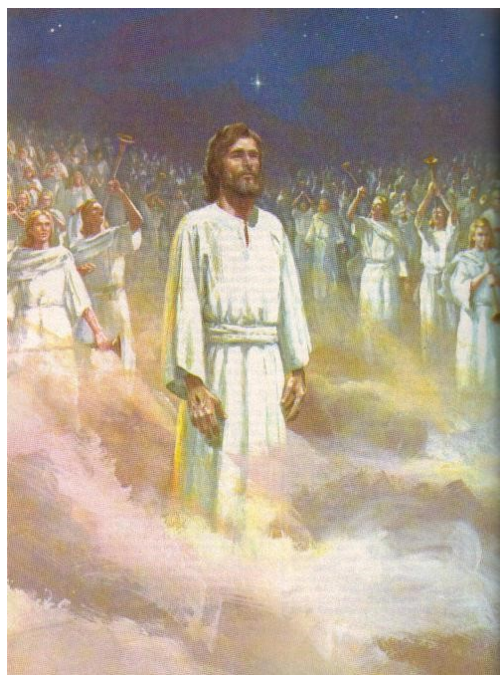
**Thanksgiving Day Service**, November 26, 10:00 a.m.

**Advent Worship** - Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Living Nativity and Las Posadas** - December 20, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve** - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day** - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.



*“And so we  
will be with the  
Lord forever.”*

Christian Worship Supplement: # 743 “O Gracious Lord”



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing  
 2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;  
 3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;  
 4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,  
 5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,  
 My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - rase,  
 Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:  
 You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;  
 This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing  
 To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,  
 Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—  
 Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior  
 Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,  
 O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,  
 My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,  
 A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,  
 Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.  
 O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.  
 My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.  
 A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.  
 Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

# PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

**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.*