



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

“What I say to you,  
I say to everyone:  
‘Watch!’”

Mark 13:37



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PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 29, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

### FIRST SUNDAY in ADVENT

**Theme of the day:** Keep watch! The unexpectedness of Christ's coming doesn't change its certainty. We know he is coming with judgment on the unbelieving world and grace and rescue for his people. We are filled with hope, with love, and with light. With anticipation in our hearts, we long for the fulfillment. "Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!"



## 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: # 1 “The Advent of our King”**

♪ **The advent of our King   Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing   In strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son   Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant’s form puts on   To set his servants free.**

**O Zion’s Daughter, rise   To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let a faithless heart despise   The peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light,   He soon will come again  
And his true members all unite   With him in heav’n to reign.**

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 AND ABSOLUTION**

M: God, through Moses, commanded his people, “The man or woman  
who sins against his neighbor, betrays the Lord and will have to  
answer for it. He should confess his sin.”

*Silence to reflect on the Word of God .*

♪ **Song: Jesus Sinners Does Receive (# 304)**

**Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.**

M: We confess our sins both seen and unseen in thought, word,  
and action, according to the words of Psalm 51:

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me!**

**M: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. He gives us this great comfort: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.” The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen. (*spoken*)**

## **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING INTROIT**

♪ **Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christchild lying there.**

**M: The darkness of sin and unbelief are shattered by the light of the Gospel. The **Prophecy Candle** gives us the first flicker of hope as we watch for the coming of the Lord.**

**C: Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (*Mark 13:33*)**

*The Prophecy Candle is lit.*

♪ **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.**



M: May the light of this candle call to mind the glorious light of the Gospel, shining in the birth of our Savior. May his grace enlighten our lives, both now and forever.

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

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 63:16, 17; 64:1-9**

**63 <sup>16</sup> You, the LORD, are our Father. Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name. <sup>17</sup>Why do you cause us to wander from your ways, LORD? Why do you harden our heart so that we do not fear you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your heritage.**

**64 Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down. Mountains then would quake because of your presence.**

**<sup>2</sup>As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries.**

**Then nations would quake in your presence.**

**<sup>3</sup>You did amazing things that we did not expect.**

**You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.**

**<sup>4</sup>From ancient times no one has heard. No ear has understood.**

**No eye has seen any god except you, who goes into action for the one who waits for him.**

**<sup>5</sup>You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways!**

**But you were angry because we sinned.**

**We have remained in our sins for a long time. Can we still be saved?**

**<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.**

**All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.**

**<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you. So you hid your face from us.**

**You made us melt by the power of our guilt.**

**<sup>8</sup>But now, LORD, you are our father.**

**We are the clay, and you are our potter.**

**All of us are the work of your hand.**

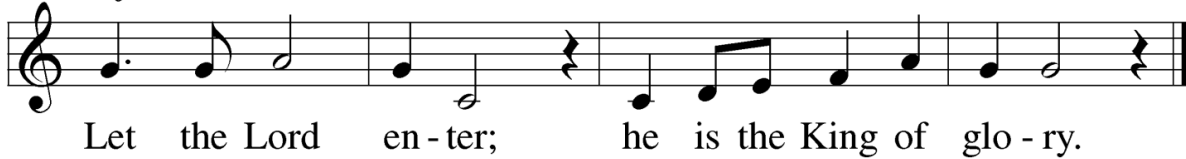
**<sup>9</sup>Do not be angry, LORD, without limit.**

**Do not remember our guilt forever.**

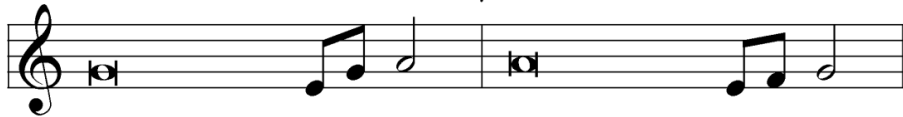
**Please look closely. All of us are your people.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 24

### *Refrain*



### *Psalm tone*



The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,\*  
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas\*  
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?\*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,\*  
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

### *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?\*  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?\*  
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

**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 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, <sup>6</sup>because the testimony about Christ was established in you. <sup>7</sup>As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia!  
(Revelation 22:20)

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: Mark 13:32-37**

<sup>32</sup>“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

**HYMN: # 4 “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”**

♪ Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav’n’s employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov’reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
Oh, enter with your saving grace;  
Show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.



## **SERMON: Psalm 24**

**By David. A psalm.**

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's  
and everything that fills it,  
the world and all who live in it,  
<sup>2</sup>because he founded it on the seas,  
and he established it on the rivers.  
<sup>3</sup>Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?  
<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
whose soul is not set on what is false,  
who does not swear deceitfully.  
<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God who saves him.  
<sup>6</sup>Such are the people of Jacob who look for the LORD,  
who seek your face.                      Interlude  
<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates.  
Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors,  
and the King of Glory will come in.  
<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of Glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.  
<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates.  
Lift up, you ancient doors,  
and the King of Glory will come in.  
<sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of Glory?  
The LORD of Armies—he is the King of Glory.                      Interlude

## **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 # 9 “Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”**

**♪ Jesus, your Church with longing eyes  
For your expected coming waits.  
When will the promised light arise  
And glory beam from heaven’s gates?**

**E’en now, when tempests round us fall  
And wintry clouds o’ercast the sky,  
Your words with pleasure we recall  
And know that our redemption’s nigh.**

**Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,  
Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,  
Our rooted enmity subdue,  
And crown your gospel with success.**

**Oh, come and reign o’er ev’ry land;  
Let Satan from his throne be hurled.  
Let nations bow to your command;  
Let grace revive a dying world.**

**Teach us in watchfulness and prayer  
To wait for your appointed hour,  
And fit us by your grace to share  
The triumphs of your conqu’ring pow’r.**

***OFFERING***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH  
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.**

**HYMN: # 363 “The King of Glory Comes”**

**♪ The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.**

**Who is the King of glory? How shall we call him?  
He is Immanuel, the promised of ages.  
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.**

**In all of Galilee, in city or village,  
He goes among his people, curing their illness.  
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.**

**He gave his life for us, the lamb of salvation;  
He took upon himself the sin of the nations.  
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.**

**He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen,  
And he will share with us his heavenly kingdom.  
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl & Janetta's anniversary.

**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, Doug Ward, Rev. & Mrs. Redlin, Kathy Jones, and Art Amarillas.

## **COMING UP**

**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.

