



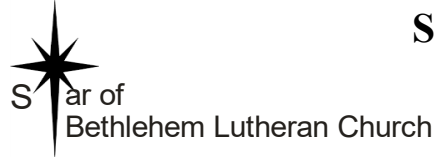
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

*I will send my  
messenger  
ahead of you,  
who will  
prepare your way.*

MARK 1:2



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

## Second Sunday of ADVENT

**Theme of the day:** Since Jesus' coming is sure and so important, he sends out forerunners in the footsteps of John the Baptist who help us to make proper preparation for his coming. They do that with a message not their own. They do it with the message that he himself has given. Pay close attention to those heralds of the coming Lord, the prophets and apostles, and to the pastors and teachers in our midst who have succeeded them to get us ready for his coming.

## 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: # 16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

♪ **On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come, then, and listen, for he brings  
Good news about the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin  
And furnished for a guest within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And lift us up to fall no more.  
Oh, make your face on us to shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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.

**Song: CW #68 “Away in a Manger”**

♪ **Lord Jesus, I long to be cleansed and made whole;  
Have pardon and mercy upon my ill soul.  
By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow,  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**Lord Jesus, have mercy, my burden is great,  
Come now, and within me a new heart create;  
Renew me and guide me; your mercy will show  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**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**

## **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.*

M: The **Bethlehem Candle** calls us to repent. See in Jesus the Light of the world. Change your hearts so that you may live as children of the light.

**C: “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.” (Matthew 3:3)**

*The Bethlehem 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.**

**P:** May the light of these candles 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.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

**<sup>8</sup>But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.**

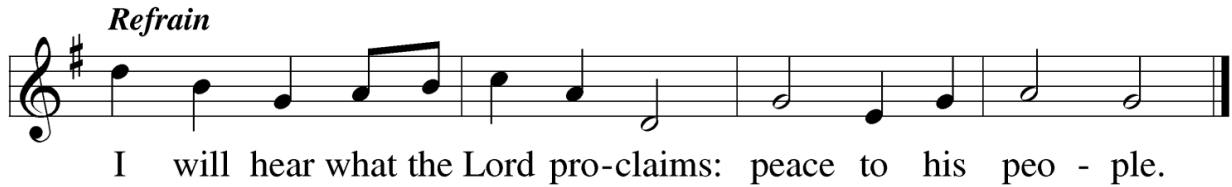
**<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.**

**<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat.**

**<sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

**<sup>14</sup>Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;\*  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people\*  
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your salvation.

### *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

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*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia!

**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 1:1-8**

**The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:**

**Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare the way for you.**

**<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of the Lord.**

**Make his paths straight.”**

**<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

**<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

**HYMN: # 11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”**

**♪ “Comfort, comfort all my people;  
Speak of peace,” so says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Groaning from their sorrows’ load.  
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.”**

**All their sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.  
They have suffered many a day;  
Now their griefs have passed away.  
God will change their aching sadness Into everspringing gladness.**

**John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him  
And the hills bow down to greet him.**

**Straighten out the crooked highway;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.**

**SERMON: Isaiah 40:1-8**

**Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.**

**<sup>2</sup>Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.**

**Her warfare really is over.**

**Her guilt is fully paid for.**

**Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all  
her sins.**

**<sup>3</sup>A voice is calling out:**

**In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.**

**In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.**

**<sup>4</sup>Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be made low.**

**The rugged ground will become level,  
and the rough places will become a plain.**

**<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all flesh together will see it.**

**Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

**<sup>6</sup>A voice was saying, "Cry out!"**

**And I said, "What shall I cry out?"**

**All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.**

**<sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.**

**Yes, the people are grass.**

**<sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God endures forever.**



## **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: # 702 "Prepare the Royal Highway"**

**♪ Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**God's people see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him!  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness, so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!**

## *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: # 25 “The King Shall Come”**

♪ **The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes—**

**Not as of old a little child  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.**

**Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see his face.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today’s service are given to the glory of God by Becky and Steve, in gratefulness for blessings received.

**PRAYERS** Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moores’ 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, Art Amarillas, and Val Wheelock.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday** Elders' Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
**Thursday** Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.  
**Saturday** Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday** Bible Class (Zoom) 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Voters' Meeting, 11:20 a.m.

## **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.

