



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

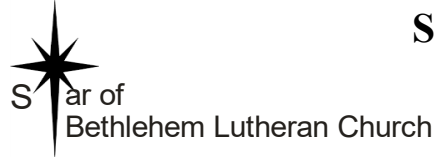
word
May your word to
me be fulfilled.

fulfilled

Luke 1:38



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, December 20, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT

Theme of the day: What's the best way to prepare for Jesus' coming? It's not with frantic doing. It's not with a focus on what we have done or promise to do. It's not with how we will pay back what he comes to bring. The best preparation for Christmas is a *readiness to receive*.

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: # 41 “Let All Together Praise Our God”

♪ **Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav’n again And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow’r divine A servant’s form to take;
In want and lowliness must die
Who heav’n and earth did make,
Who heav’n and earth did make.**

**A wondrous change which he does make:
He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners’ sake His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.**

**He serves that I a lord may be—A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus’ love do more for me To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?**

**For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.**

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.

M: The **Shepherd Candle** points to our joy as God’s people. In Jesus we have all that matters. In joy and peace we ask God to keep us in the faith and faithful in our lives.

C: **The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.**
(1 Thessalonians 5:24)

The Shepherd Candle is lit.

M: The **Angel Candle** shows us the glory of the Son of God who humbled himself to save us. With the angels, we praise our Savior who gave his all for us.

C: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”** (Luke 2:14)



The Angel 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 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.**

FIRST LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. ¹⁰I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning ¹¹and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. ¹²When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you.

¹⁶Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 89

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I



lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



**I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;*
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**

**I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

**The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**

Refrain

**O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds
you.**

**Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.**

**They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.**

**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. Look the virgin will be with child and will give
birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel. Alleluia!
(Matthew 1:23)

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

SECOND LESSON: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you—

according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, ²⁶but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—

²⁷to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: # 35 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

♪ Of the Father’s love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face Evermore and evermore.

This is he whom heav’n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav’n adore him,
Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow’rs, dominions bow before him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring Evermore and evermore.

**Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**

SERMON: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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: # 2 “Savior of the Nations Come”

**♪ Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin’s Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav’n enthroned!**

**From the Father’s throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell!**

**Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.**

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: # 64 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

**♪ Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for he was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.**

**O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,
Bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Taubmans.

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, Art Amarillas, Val Wheelock, Linda Hill & Christina.

COMING UP

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

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