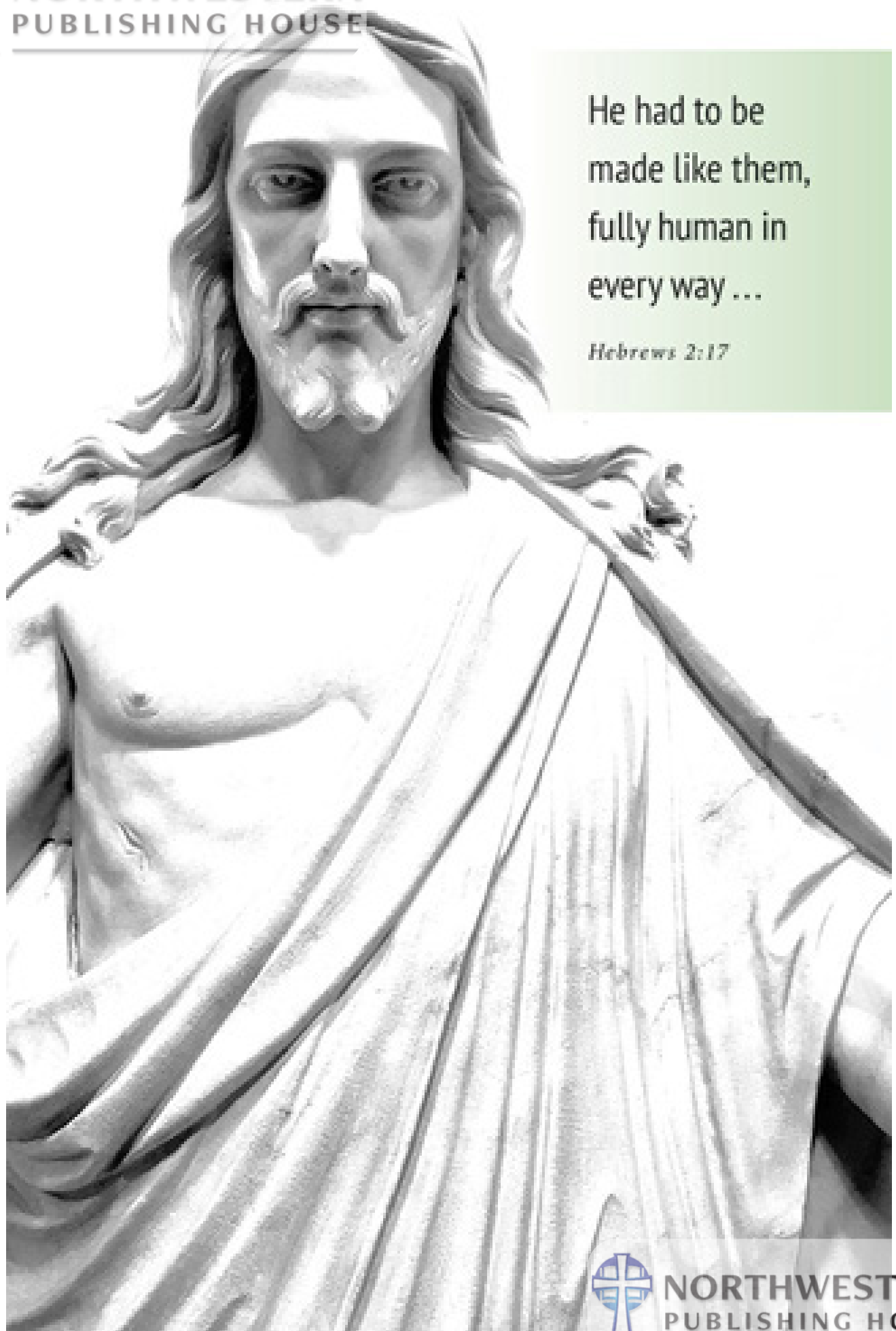




NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

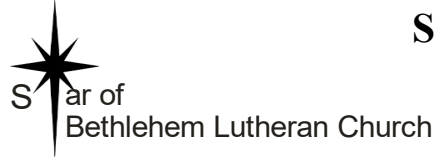


He had to be
made like them,
fully human in
every way ...

Hebrews 2:17



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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

Worship Service

Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of our Lord

Theme of the day: The Eastern Church celebrates January 6th as the Nativity of our Lord. For the West, the Epiphany of our Lord is the continued celebration of the birth of the Savior of Nations. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.

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: # 75 “Father, Let Me Dedicate”

♪ **Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,
In whate’er my earthly state, In whate’er I do.
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.**

**Can a child presume to choose Where or how to live?
Can a father’s love refuse All the best to give?
More you give me ev’ry day Than the best can claim;
Help me trust you that I may Glorify your name.**

**If in mercy you prolong Joys that now are mine,
If on life serene and fair Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart, while it sings, You in all proclaim
And, whate’er the future brings, Glorify your name.**

**If you have for me a cross And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss, Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how your dear Son To his glory came
And in deepest woe pray on: “Glorify your name.”**

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**

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 glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.

All those from Sheba will come.

They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 72

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



**Endow the King with your justice, O God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.**

**He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.**

**He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.**

**He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.**

Refrain

**All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.**

**All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.**

**Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his 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

VERSE OF THE DAY

**M: Alleluia. Alleluia. We saw his star when it rose and have come to
worship him. Alleluia! (*Matthew 2:2*)**

**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: Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

HYMN: # 92 "Brightest and Best"

♪ **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and monarch and Savior of all.**

**Shall we not yield him in costly devotion
Rarest of fragrances, tribute divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we bring him the finest of off'rings,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure.
Richer by far is the praise that the heart brings;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

SERMON: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

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.

Hymn: # 87 “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

**♪ Hail, O Source of ev’ry blessing,
Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, your grace possessing,
In your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before you,
In your Church rejoice to live,
See your glory and adore you,
Thankful for the grace you give.**

**Once far off but now invited,
We approach your sacred throne,
In your covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages,
See the star of mercy shine,
Myst’ry hid in former ages,
Myst’ry great of love divine.**

**Hail, O all-inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their off' rings bring,
In your temples seek your favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

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: #70 “Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter”
(verses 1,4,5)**

♪ **Help us, O Lord, for now we enter Upon another year today.
In you our hopes and thoughts now center;
Renew our courage for the way.
New life, new strength, new happiness
We ask of you—oh, hear and bless.**

**Jesus, be with me and direct me;
Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
Jesus, be all my heart’s desire;
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
And never let me fall away.**

**And grant, Lord, when the year is over,
That it for me in peace may close.
In all things care for me and cover
My head in time of fear and woes.
So may I, when my life is done,
Appear with joy before your throne.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Julianna 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.

Please remember to use every opportunity to invite others to make use of our streaming services (starlutheran.org).

Arise, shine,



for your light has come!

Isaiah 60:1

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