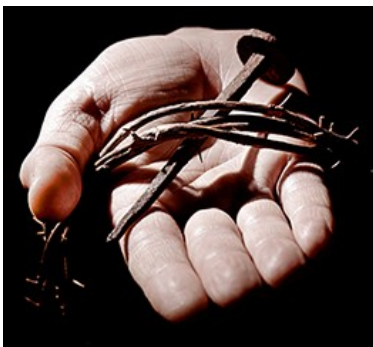




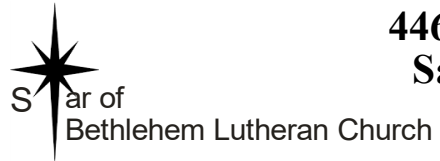
ASH Wednesday



The Hands of the Passion



Hands of Repentance



4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 *7:00 p.m.*



Thought for the day: Return to the Lord! Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal. Recognition of our sin leads us to cry out for mercy and trust in God's promised forgiveness. Return to the Lord for he is gracious! Having obtained his pardon, we seek a renewal of faith and life that we might live as baptized children of God.

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: # 14 “Arise, O Christian People”

♪ **Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.**

**Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.**

**The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord’s delight.**

**Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

Minister: Most holy and merciful Father,

Congregation: **We confess to you and to one another that
we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our manipulation of other people,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

M: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

M: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

C: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

LESSON: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this: There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

⁷Nathan told David, "You are the man. This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says."

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. ¹²Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan said to David, "The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.

PSALM 130

M: O Lord, hear my voice.

C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

M: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

C: O Lord, who could stand?

M: But with you there is forgiveness;

C: therefore you are feared.

M: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C: and in his word I put my hope.

M: My soul waits for the Lord

C: more than watchmen wait for the morning.

M: O Israel,

C: put your hope in the LORD,

M: for with the LORD is unfailing love

C: and with him is full redemption.

M: He himself will redeem Israel

C: from all their sins.

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LESSON: Acts 5:1-11

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's knowledge, he kept back part of the proceeds for himself. Then he brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴Was it not yours before it was sold? And after it was sold, was not the money at your disposal? How could you plan such a thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

⁵When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. Great fear gripped everyone who heard about it. ⁶The young men got up and wrapped up his body. Then they carried him out and buried him.

⁷About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this how much you got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that was the price."

⁹Then Peter said to her, “How could you two agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are standing at the door, and they will carry you out too!”

¹⁰Instantly she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in, they found her dead. Then they carried her outside and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹Great fear gripped the whole church and all who heard about these things.

HYMN: “Loving Hands”

♪ Loving hands of Jesus, loving hands of God;
Willing hands that carried such a heavy cross.
Loving hands that only did this for my good,
Oh the hands of Jesus stretched upon that wood!

Gifted hands of Jesus, Pouring out His love,
Were these hands so holy sent from God above.
Healing hands, so precious, gave sight to the blind,
Gave life to the dead man. Pardon, now he finds.

Caring hands of Jesus, oh, my sin-sick pain
On himself was carried and for me was slain
Tender hands that offer welcome and new life
Hands that freely gave me end to all my strife.

Saving hands of Jesus pierced upon the tree;
Suffr’ing hands that saved me, sinner though I be.
Guiding hands will take me from this world of wrongs
His hands will enfold me with his heavn’ly throng.

LESSON: Luke 18:9-14

⁹Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others:

¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’”

¹³“However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴“I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

HYMN # 125 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

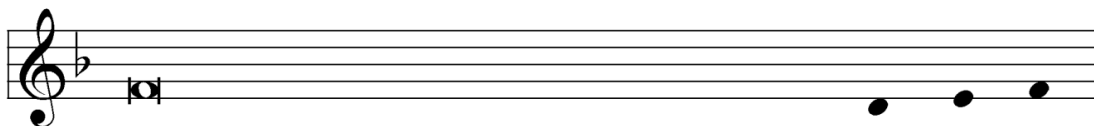
♪ When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

OFFERING



M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your Spirit.**

M: We lift up our hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
 ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen
 your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
 peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
 and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.
 C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: # 592 “All Praise to Thee, My God”

♪ **All praise to thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
Beneath thine own almighty wings.
Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and thee
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die so that I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.
Oh, may my soul on thee repose
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
To serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me distress.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

