



**NORTHWESTERN  
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***God did not send his Son . . .  
to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him.***

***John 3:17***



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Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourth Sunday in LENT

**Theme of the day:** Traditionally this Sunday was called *Laetare*, “Rejoice” Sunday. We rejoice in the middle of Lent that God has so fully and so perfectly taken to heart our only real need as sinners and satisfied it in Christ.

## 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: # 391 “God Loved the Word So that He Gave”**

♪ **God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save  
That all who would in him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ is the solid rock of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die—  
His Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word does teach  
How we the blessed goal may reach.**

**Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son  
Forgives the sins that you have done.  
You’re justified by Jesus’ blood;  
Baptized, you are a child of God.**

**When you are sick, when death draws near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death—  
This is the anchor of my faith!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!**

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**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score ends with a double bar line.

M: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!”

<sup>6</sup>The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. <sup>7</sup>The people went to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” <sup>9</sup>Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 38

#### *Refrain*



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.



**O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger\*  
or discipline me in your wrath.**

**For your arrows have pierced me,\*  
and your hand has come down upon me.**

**My guilt has overwhelmed me\*  
like a burden too heavy to bear.**

### **Refrain**

**All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;\*  
my sighing is not hidden from you.**

**I wait for you, O LORD;\*  
you will answer, O Lord my God.**

**Come quickly to help me,\*  
O Lord my Savior.**

**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:** Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. (*Hebrews 11:2*)

**C:** For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

## **GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:14-21**

**<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”**

## **HYMN: # 379 “Amazing Grace”**

**♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

## **SERMON: Ephesians 2:4-10**

**<sup>4</sup>But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup>He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.**

**<sup>10</sup>For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.**

## **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: # 747 “There Is a Redeemer”**

♪ **There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank you oh my Father,  
For giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit til  
the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Oh, for sinners slain. Refrain**

**When I stand in glory,  
I will see His face,  
There I’ll serve my King forever,  
In that holy place. Refrain**

**THANKSGIVING**

*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.**

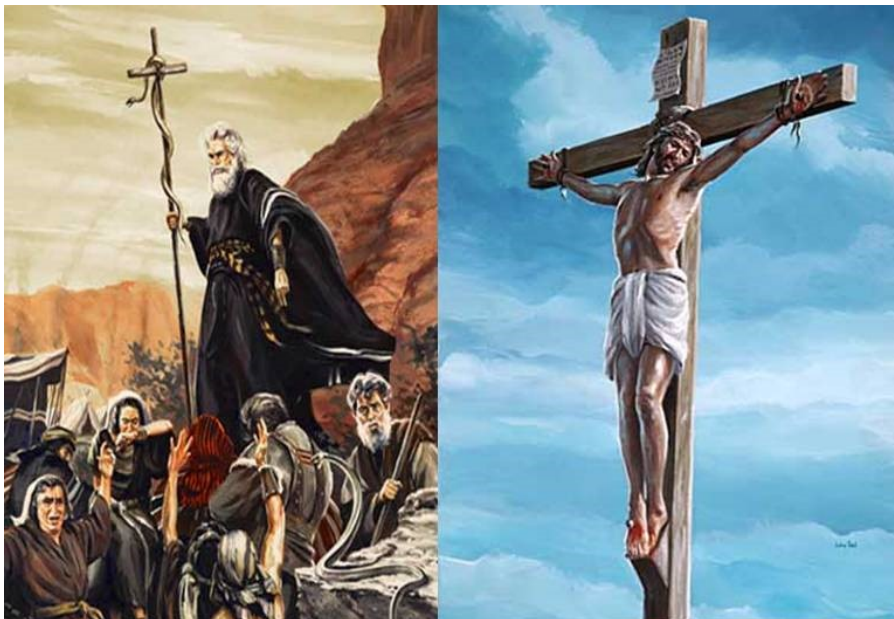
**HYMN: # 345 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

♪ **In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me,  
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Pat Murphy.

**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, Julianna Saenz, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Val Wheelock, Linda Hill & Christina, Wayne Chapman, Gwen Reuter, Lynn Oberg, and Louise Perry.

**HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS** by Martin Luther College will only be available online this year. You can also order previous years' devotions at: <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/>

**EASTER FLOWERS** (and **MEMORY GARDEN**): Forms are available in the narthex to provide flowers for Easter.

### **THIS WEEK**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Catechism, 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.</b>

### **COMING UP**

**Work Day:** Saturday, March 27, 9:00-12:00

#### **Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday** - March 28, 10:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday** - April 1, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday** - April 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** - April 4, 10:00 a.m.



**The  
Hands  
of the  
Passion**

**Midweek Lenten Services  
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday, February 17 .....	Hands of Repentance
Midweek 2, February 24 .....	Hands of Betrayal
Midweek 3, March 3 .....	Hands of Misguided Zeal
Midweek 4, March 10 .....	Hands of Hypocrisy
<b>Midweek 5, March 17 .....</b>	<b>Hands of Brutality</b>
Midweek 6, March 24 .....	Hands of Self-Preservation