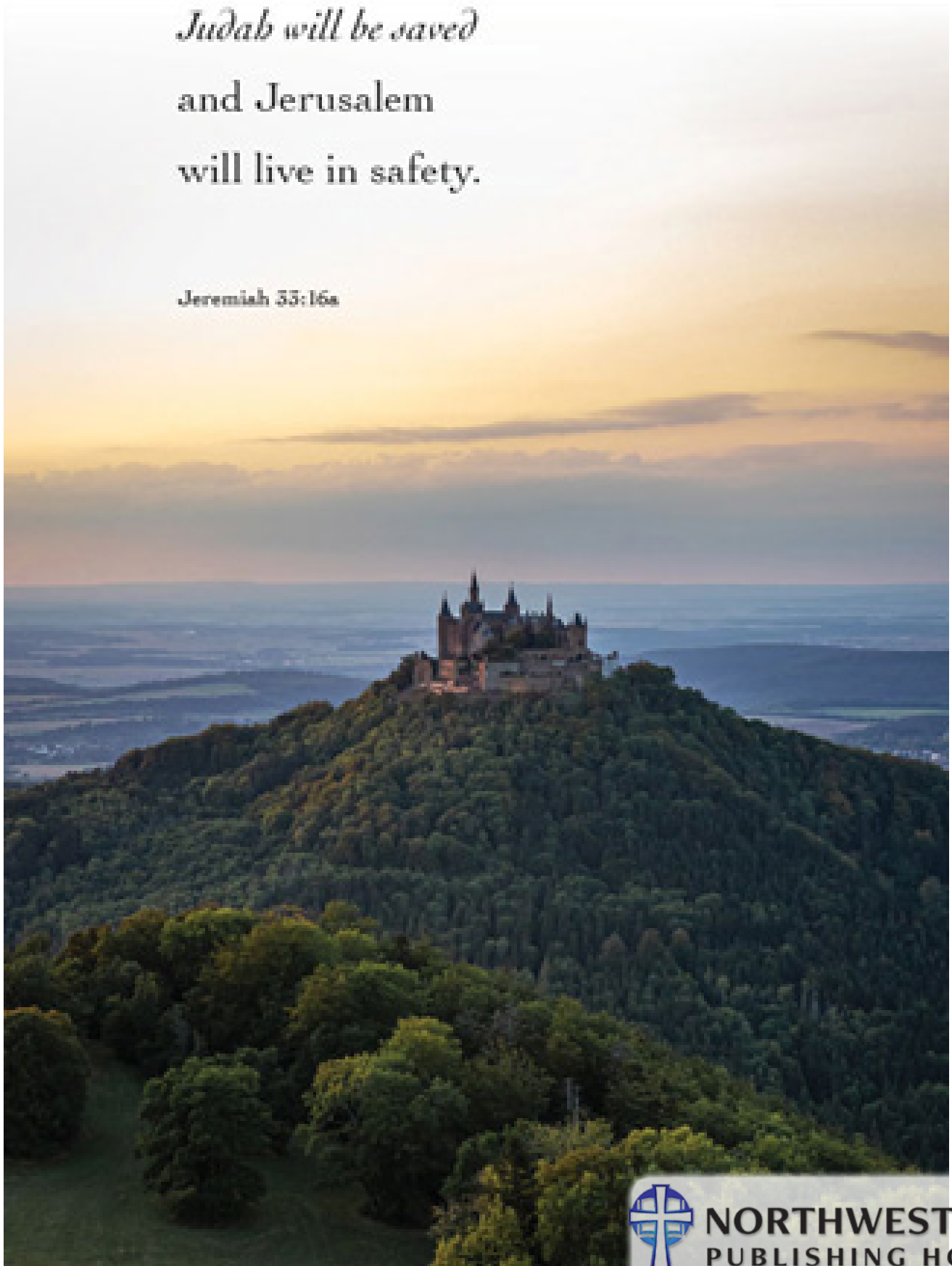




NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

In those days
Judab will be saved
and Jerusalem
will live in safety.

Jeremiah 33:16a



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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

Worship Service

Sunday, November 28, 2021 10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY in ADVENT

Theme of the day: Keep watch! The unexpectedness of Christ's coming doesn't change its certainty. We know he is coming with judgment on the unbelieving world and grace and rescue for his people. We are filled with hope, with love, and with light. With anticipation in our hearts, we long for the fulfillment. "Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!"



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: # 1 “The Advent of our King”

♪ **The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set his servants free.**

**O Zion’s Daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let a faithless heart despise The peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And his true members all unite With him in heav’n to reign.**

**Before the dawning Day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.**

Please stand for last verse:

**All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.**

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 AND ABSOLUTION

M: God, through Moses, commanded his people, “The man or woman who sins against his neighbor, betrays the Lord and will have to answer for it. He should confess his sin.”

Silence to reflect on the Word of God .

♪ **Song: Jesus Sinners Does Receive (# 304)**

**Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.**

M: We confess our sins both seen and unseen in thought, word, and action, according to the words of Psalm 51:

C: Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I admit my rebellious acts. My sin is always in front of me. Against you, you only, have I sinned, and I have done this evil in your eyes. Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness. Let the bones you have crushed celebrate. Hide your face from my sins. Erase all my guilty deeds. Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew an unwavering spirit within me.

M: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. He gives us this great comfort: “As distant as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our rebellious acts from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” And the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

Please be seated.

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.



♪ 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 this candle 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: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line. He will establish justice and righteousness on earth. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. This is what she will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 25



in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,*
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.

Refrain

Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
for I am lonely and afflicted.


Look upon my affliction and my distress*
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,*
for I take refuge in you.

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

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. The one who testifies about these things says,
“Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia!
(Revelation 22:20)

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: Luke 21:25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things

begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

HYMN: # 208 “Great God, What Do I See and Hear”

♪ Great God, what do I see and hear?
The end of things created;
The judge of mankind shall appear On clouds of glory seated.
The trumpet sounds; the graves restore
The dead which they contained before:
Prepare, my soul, to meet him!

The dead in Christ shall first arise
At that last trumpet’s sounding,
Caught up to meet him in the skies,
With joy their Lord surrounding.
No gloomy fears their souls dismay;
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet him.

But sinners filled with guilty fears
Behold his wrath prevailing,
For they shall rise and find their tears
And sighs are unavailing;
The day of grace is past and gone;
They trembling stand before his throne,
All unprepared to meet him.

**O Christ, you died, and yet you live;
To me account your merit,
My pardon seal, my sins forgive,
And cleanse me by your Spirit.
Beneath your cross I view the day
When heav'n and earth shall pass away,
And thus prepare to meet you.**

SERMON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

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: # 219 “Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See”

♪ **Lord, when your glory I shall see
And taste your kingdom’s pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside you.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! 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.

HYMN: # 597 "May God the Father of Our Lord"

♪ **May God the Father of our Lord,
Who called you by his holy Word,
Perfect, establish, settle you,
Keep you through faith forever true.**

**In Jesus Christ may you be blessed
And brought to his eternal rest.
The work he has in you begun,
He will perform till all is done.**

**The Holy Spirit give you pow'r,
The strength of prayer in ev'ry hour,
The wisdom, knowledge, fear of God,
That lifts above his chast'ning rod.**

**May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Preserve you blameless till in grace
You stand before his holy face.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl & Janetta's anniversary.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Wayne Chapman, and Roberta Gowin.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please fill out and return the blue information sheets (in the narthex) as soon as possible.

To view and use the directory online, go to:
members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now."

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:
download the App for "Instant Church Directory"

*** You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

COMING UP

Living Nativity and Las Posadas - December 19,
beginning at 4:00 p.m.

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

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

