



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

LET YOUR
GENTLENESS

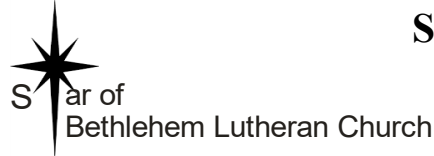


**BE EVIDENT
TO ALL.**

Philippians 4:5



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, December 12, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of ADVENT

Theme of the day: In this season of Advent (Coming) we focus on the three “comings” of Christ: his coming into this world as a baby to put himself in our place and to pay for our sins, his coming in glory at the last day to take us into the full enjoyment of our salvation, and his coming into our hearts through the power of his word which gives us faith and makes that salvation our own. And all three of these comings lead us to REJOICE....

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: # 7 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

♪ **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints, who here in patience
Your cross and suff’rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev’ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth’s redemption That sets your people free.**

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

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.

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.

♪ **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.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone

*

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*
O Lord, hear my voice.**

**Let your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.**

**If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?**

**But with you there is forgiveness;*
therefore you are feared.**

Refrain

**I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.**

**O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.**

**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. Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (*Matthew 11:10*)

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 3:7-18

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

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 was 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.**

SERMON: Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel’s king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, “Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.”

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: # 62 "Joy to the World"

**♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

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.

CLOSING HYMN: # 745 "May the Peace of God"

(music on back page)

♪ **May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love,
And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain —
Christ eternal, the King of kings.**

**May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his Communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.**

**And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain —
Christ eternal, the King of kings.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Gowins in celebration of Mike's birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: 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 Amarrillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Wayne Chapman, and Roberta Gowin.

THIS WEEK

Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Living Nativity, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Las Posadas, 6:00 p.m.

COMING UP

Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.

I May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa -
 peace which pass - es un - der - stand -
 ther, And the grace of Christ the ris - en
 ing, And this grace which makes us what we
 Son,
 are, And the fel - low - ship of God the
 And this fel - low - ship of his Com -
 Spir - it Keep our hearts and minds with - in his
 mun - ion Make us one in spir - it and in
Refrain
 love. heart. And to him be praise for his
 glo - rious reign From the depths of earth to the
 heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the
 Lamb once slain— Christ e - ter - nal, the King of
 1
 kings.
 2
 2 May this kings.