



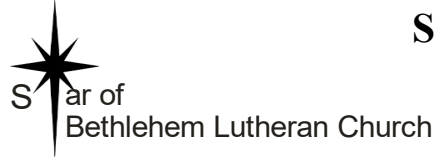
NORTHWESTERN
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This son of mine was dead
and is alive again;
he was lost and is found.

Luke 15:24



NORTHWESTERN
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, March 27, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: The repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father's full, free, and "foolish" forgiveness.

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: # 387 “Drawn to the Cross”

♪ **Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**How well you know my griefs and fears,
Your grace abused, my misspent years;
So now to you with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

Please stand for last verse:

**To pledge my labor willingly,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.**

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*)

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.

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

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 e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. 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.

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say:

**I will give thanks to you, LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away,
and you comfort me.**

²Surely God is my salvation.

**I will trust him and will not be afraid,
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song,
and he has become my salvation.**

³Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

**Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.
Declare among the peoples what he has done.
Proclaim that his name is exalted!**

**⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!
Let this be known in all the earth!**

**⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!**

PSALM OF THE DAY: 32

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone



**Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.**

**When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you*
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Refrain

**You are my hiding place;*
you will protect me from trouble.**

**Many are the woes of the wicked,*
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in
him.**

**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

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him.

**²But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining,
“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

³He told them this parable:

**¹¹ “A certain man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to
his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided
his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son
gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country.
There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴After he had
spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he
began to be in need. ¹⁵He went and hired himself out to one of the
citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.**

¹⁶He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’ ”

²⁰“He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵“His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹“He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I’ve been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³²But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ ”

HYMN: # 349 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

♪ Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me.

Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for thee?

Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!

I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.

**In thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.**

**Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore him, Silent bow before him.**

**Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure;
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss Or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me Since he deigns to love me.**

**Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!**

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. ¹⁹In fact, it is written:

**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.**

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? ²¹Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. ²²Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom,

²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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: # 579 “Lift High the Cross”

**♪ Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.**

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.**

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

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: # 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.**

The WELS Connection

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Evelyn's birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Dennis Douglas, 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, Roberta Gowin, Amber (Kathryn's granddaughter), Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, and Ryan Bevington.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday Catechism, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

Clean-up/Work Day: Saturday, April 9, 9:00-12:00

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - April 10, 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - April 14, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 15, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - April 17, 10:00 a.m.

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

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members.instantchurchdirectory.com

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

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*** 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.