



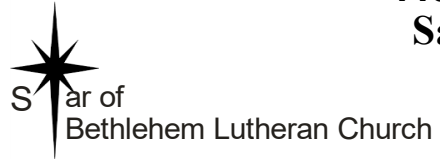
**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

*"It will be good  
for those servants  
whose master finds  
them watching  
when he comes."*

*Luke 12:37a*



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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, November 20, 2022 10:00 a.m.*

### **Last Sunday of the Church Year - The LAST DAY**

**Theme of the day:** As we await Christ's return, we want to avoid two extremes: impatience and indifference. We don't despair that the deliverance doesn't come as quickly as we'd like, and we also don't doubt that the deliverance will indeed come. The key is looking to the Scriptures — to those wonderful promises our Savior has never gone back on and never will.

## **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.

**HYMN: # 487 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”**

♪ **Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for ev’ry sinner slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow’r and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

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: 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.

**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**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C. ♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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: Revelation 22:6-13**

<sup>6</sup>The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

<sup>7</sup>“And look: I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who holds on to the words of the prophecy of this book.”

<sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!”

<sup>10</sup>The angel also said to me:

Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

<sup>11</sup>Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust.

Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy.

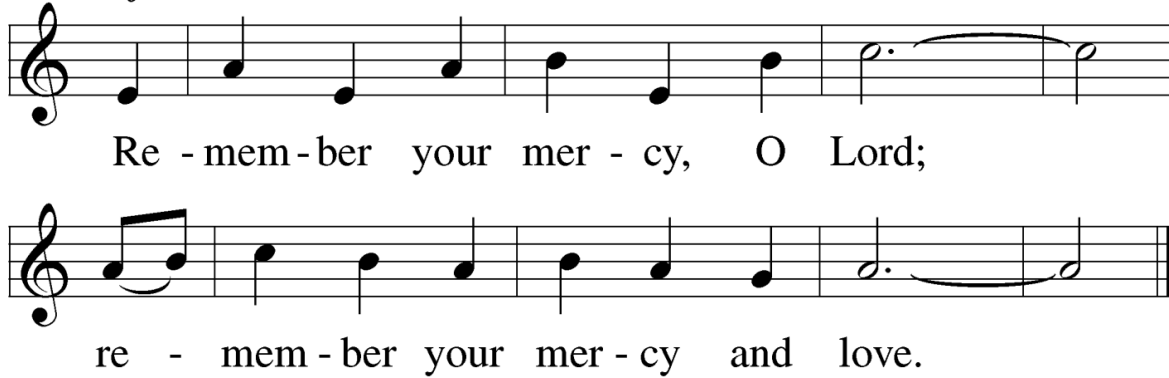
Let the one who is just continue to do what is just.

Let the one who is holy continue to be holy.

<sup>12</sup>Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 130

### *Refrain*



### *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. Be alert, because you do not know on what day your  
Lord is coming. Alleluia. (*Matthew 24:42*)**

**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 12:35-40**

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning.  
<sup>36</sup>Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding  
banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately  
open the door for him. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants, whom the mas-  
ter will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will  
dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come  
and serve them. <sup>38</sup>Even if he comes in the second or third watch,  
they will be blessed if he finds them alert. <sup>39</sup>But know this: If the  
master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming,  
he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken in-  
to. <sup>40</sup>You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an  
hour when you are not expecting him.”

**HYMN: # 493 “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.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free.**

#### **SERMON: Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4**

**1 The threatening oracle which the prophet Habakkuk saw.**

**<sup>2</sup>How long, LORD, must I cry for help, but you do not listen?  
I call out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save!**

**<sup>3</sup>Why do you cause me to see injustice?  
Why do you overlook misery?  
Devastation and violence confront me.  
There is strife, and tensions rise.**

**2 I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the city wall. I  
will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give  
to my complaint.**

**<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me. He said:**

**Record the vision and write it plainly on tablets so that a  
herald may run with it.**

**<sup>3</sup>Indeed, the vision is waiting for the appointed time. It  
longs for fulfillment and will not prove false. If it seems slow  
in coming, wait for it, because it will certainly come and will  
not be delayed.**

**<sup>4</sup>Look, his soul is puffed up and is not righteous within  
him—but the righteous one will live by his faith.**



## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.**

**C: Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.**

**M: Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.**

**C: Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.**

**M: Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.**

**C: Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.**

M: Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.

**C: Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.**

M: Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. 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.**

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

### **The Holy Sacrament**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you. (*spoken*)**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♪ **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

### **The Words of Institution**

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

**C: ♪ Amen.**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION HYMN: # 559 “If Your Beloved Son, O God”**

♪ **If your beloved Son, O God, had not to earth descended  
and in our mortal flesh and blood had not sin’s power ended,  
then this poor, wretched soul of mine  
in hell eternally would pine  
because of my transgression.**

**But now I find sweet peace and rest;  
despair no more reigns o'er me.  
No more am I by sin oppressed,  
for Christ has borne sin for me.  
Upon the cross for me he died that, reconciled, I might abide  
with you, my God, forever.**

**I trust in him with all my heart; now all my sorrow ceases.  
His words abiding peace impart; his blood from guilt releases.  
Free grace through him I now obtain;  
he washes me from ev'ry stain,  
and pure I stand before him.**

**All righteousness by works is vain;  
the law brings condemnation.  
True righteousness by faith I gain;  
Christ's work is my salvation.  
His death, that perfect sacrifice,  
has paid the all-sufficient price;  
in him my hope is anchored.**

**My guilt, O Father, you have laid  
on Christ, your Son, my Savior.  
Lord Jesus, you my debt have paid  
and gained for me God's favor.  
O Holy Spirit, fount of grace, the good in me to you I trace;  
in faith and hope preserve me.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**


**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  **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: # 739 “Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go**

 **Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue,  
determined only you to know in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task your wisdom has assigned, O, let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.**

**May I find you at my right hand; your eyes see truly what I do.  
I labor on at your command and offer all my works to you.**

**Give me to bear your easy yoke  
and ev’ry moment watch and pray  
and still to things eternal look  
and hasten to your glorious day.**

**For you I joyously employ  
whatever you in grace have giv’n;  
I run my daily course with joy  
and closely walk with you to heav’n.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God by Mike Gowin, in gratitude for seven years sober.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, and Rylan Downs.

**MEDITATIONS** for the next quarter are on the shelf in the narthex. Treat yourself (and maybe someone you know) to this very beneficial devotional resource.

**Special Mission Offering** for this season is the WELS Care & Relief Committee (specially marked for relief to Ukraine).

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Thanksgiving service, 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

## **COMING UP**

**Living Nativity**, December 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Las Posadas**, 6:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve** - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day** - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.

# PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

**Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?**

*A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

**Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?**

*A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

**Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?**

*A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

**Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?**

*A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

**Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?**

*A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

**Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?**

*A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

**Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?**

*A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

*Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.*

