



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**REPENT,  
FOR THE  
KINGDOM  
OF HEAVEN  
HAS COME  
NEAR.**

MATTHEW 3:2



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, December 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.*

## Second Sunday of ADVENT

**Theme of the day:** Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near! The Forerunner prepares for the coming Christ by preaching repentance that brings renewal of life. The Root of Jesse will come in swift judgment on the unrepentant but in mercy and grace for God's people. His coming will end the wickedness of the world and usher in a new age restored to the perfection with which God made it.

## 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: # 321 “God’s Own Son Most Holy”

♪ God’s own Son most holy came a servant lowly,  
came to live among us, came to suffer for us;  
bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.

Still he comes in preaching, truth eternal teaching:  
“Turn away from evil; turn to me, my people.  
I pronounce you sinless; trust in my forgiveness.

Still he comes providing proof of love abiding;  
he whose death has freed us gives himself to feed us,  
thus to us extending peace and joy unending.

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing that, your grace receiving,  
we may here confess you till in heav’n we bless you.**

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.**

### The Call to Repentance

M: A voice was saying, “Cry out.”

C: **And I said, “What shall I cry out?”**

M: All flesh is grass.

C: **and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.**

M: Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows  
on them.

C: **Yes, the people are grass.**

M: Grass withers, flowers fade,

C: **but the word of our God endures forever.**

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.**

*Introduction is played (Melody of # 316)*

♪ **O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are  
My comfort and my guiding star;  
I come, a sinner, trustingly  
And bring my many sins with me.**

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: *(Spoken)* **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 Christ Child 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 of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”**  
(Matthew 3:3)

*The Bethlehem 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.**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10**

**A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.**

**<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

**<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he  
render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will  
render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.**

**<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.**

**<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.**

**<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.**

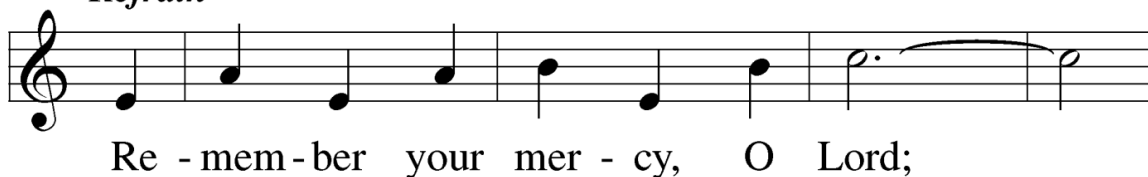
**<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.**

**<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

<sup>10</sup>This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

**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. Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.  
And everyone will see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

*(Luke 3:4,6)*

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: Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” <sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones.

<sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**HYMN: # 316 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

♪ On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come, then, and listen, for he brings  
good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin  
and furnished for a Guest within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow’rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and lift us up to fall no more;  
O, make your face on us to shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

**MESSAGE: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope.



**<sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:**

**For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.**

**<sup>10</sup>And again it says:**

**Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.**

**<sup>11</sup>And again:**

**Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.**

**<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:**

**There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.**

**<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **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**

## **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.**

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! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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: # 312 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”**

**♪ “Comfort, comfort all my people;  
speak of peace,” so says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
groaning from their sorrows’ load.  
Speak to all Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, that their warfare now is over.”**

**All their sins our God will pardon,  
blotting out each dark misdeed;  
all that well deserve his anger he no more will see or heed.  
They have suffered many a day;  
now their griefs have passed away.  
God will change their aching sadness into everspringing gladness.**

**John the Baptist's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling people to repentance for the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him  
and the hills bow down to greet him.**

**Then make straight the crooked highway;  
make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, ready for his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is spread abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.**

## **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: # 304 “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”**

♪ **What hope! An Eden prophesied  
where tame live with the wild,  
the lamb and lion side by side,  
led by a little child!**

**A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem,  
a branch from David’s line,  
a Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:  
the fruit of God’s design.**

**As banner of God’s love unfurled,  
Christ came to suffer loss,  
that by his death a dying world  
would rally to the cross.**

**Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
lost Paradise restore;  
lead past the angel’s flaming sword—  
come, open heaven’s door.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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.

## THIS WEEK

**Tuesday**      **ESL, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday**    **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**  
                    **ESL, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Friday**        **Atascadero Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday**        **Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.**  
                    **Worship, 10:00 a.m.**  
                    **Fellowship Lunch after.**

## 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.*

**[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)**