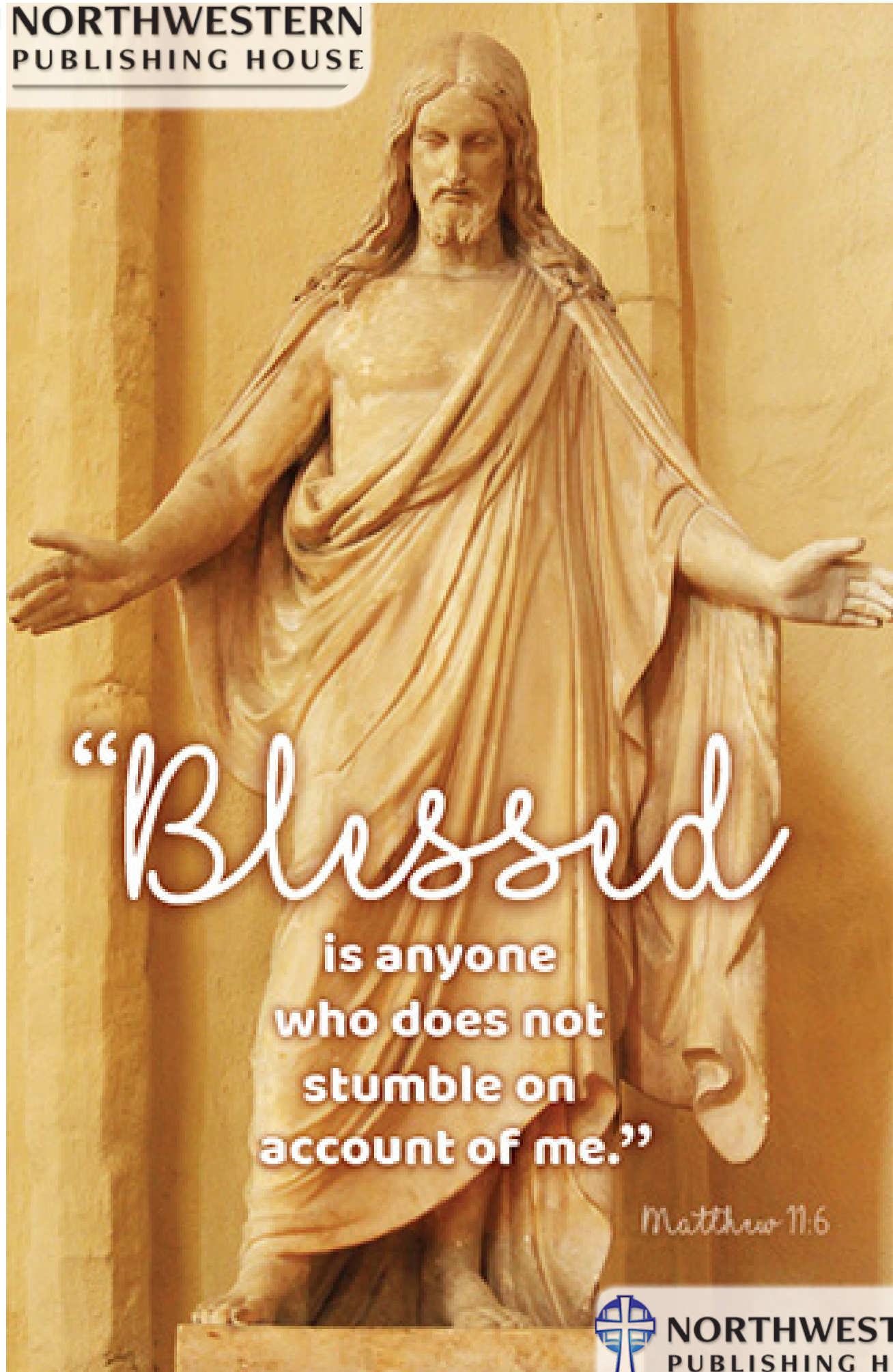




**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



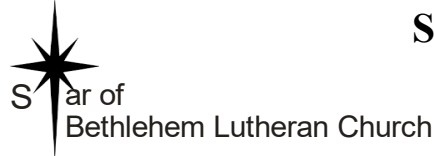
“*Blessed*

**is anyone
who does not
stumble on
account of me.”**

Matthew 11:6



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, December 11, 2022 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: # 307 “When the King Shall Come Again”

♪ **When the King shall come again, all his pow’r revealing,
splendor shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing,
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated.
This is God’s redemption day longingly awaited.**

**In the desert trees take root, fresh from his creation;
plants and flow’rs and sweetest fruit join the celebration.
Rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains greet the morning!**

**Strengthen feeble hands and knees, fainting hearts be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping.**

Please stand for last verse:

**There God’s highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean walks the road to Zion.
Ransomed people, homeward bound, all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned; share in his rejoicing!**

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.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

**The wilderness and the desert will be glad.
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a
crocus.**

**²It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.**

They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady.

⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong. Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God’s own retribution, he will come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.
⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
 Waters will flow in the wilderness,
 and streams in the wasteland.
⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
 and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.
 There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts
 of jackals once lay.
⁸A highway will be there,
 a road that will be called the holy way.
 The impure will not walk there.
 It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.
 Wicked fools will not wander onto it.
⁹No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.
 They will not be found there,
 but only the redeemed will walk there.
¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.
 They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
 and everlasting joy will crown their heads.
 Happiness and joy will overtake them,
 and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 146

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



**Praise the LORD, Q my soul.*
 I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

**Do not put your trust in princes,*
in mortal men, who cannot save.**

**Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Refrain

**The LORD gives food to the hungry,*
the LORD sets prisoners free.**

**The LORD gives sight to the blind,*
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**The LORD watches over the outcast*
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

**The LORD remains faithful forever.*
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**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!

SECOND LESSON: James 5:7-11

⁷Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain.

⁸You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

HYMN: # 302 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

**♪ Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

**God's people, see Him coming: your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness, so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

SERMON: Matthew 11:2-11

²While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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: #519 “There Is a Redeemer”

♪ **There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank you oh my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit til
the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
hope for sinners slain.**

Refrain

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
there I’ll serve my King forever,
in that holy place.**

Refrain

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: # 929 “May the Peace of God”

♪ **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 Oberg’s.

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, Rylan Downs, and Sam Daugherty.

THIS WEEK

- Tuesday** **Circuit Meeting (Tarzana)**
ESL, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday** **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**
ESL, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday** **Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.**
Worship with Holy 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.