



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

THE WORD  
BECAME FLESH  
AND MADE HIS DWELLING  
AMONG US.

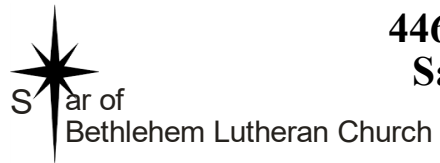
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John 1:14a



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, December 25, 2022 10:00 a.m.*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Thought for the day:** God's Word for us this day raises us up above the cute and the trite and the trivial; for so many people that is all that Christmas is about. But there is nothing trite or trivial in what has happened today: The deepest lowliness is but the mask for the greatest glory — the glory of him who came to be our Savior!

### 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: “Let All Together Praise our God” (CW 355)**

♪ **Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;  
today he opens heav’n again and gives us his own Son,  
and gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne, is born an infant small,  
and in a manger, poor and lone, lies in a humble stall,  
lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow’r divine a servant’s form to take,  
in want and lowliness must pine  
who heav’n and earth did make,  
who heav’n and earth did make.**

**He undertakes a great exchange,  
puts on our human frame,  
and in return gives us his realm, his glory, and his name,  
his glory and his name.**

**He serves that I a lord may be — a great exchange indeed!  
could Jesus’ love do more for me to help me in my need,  
to help me in my need?**

*Please stand as you are able:*

**For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more; to God our thanks we pay,  
to God our thanks we pay.**

**Minister: We begin this Christmas Day service in the name of the only true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Congregation: We proclaim the greatness of the Lord, for he has looked with favor on the humble state of his people.**

**M:** We are in the presence of the true and living God, before whom all angels veil their faces and bow in humble adoration.

**C:** We acknowledge his glory as the only true God, and we offer to him the praise of our hearts and our lips.

M: Let all the earth stand in awe of our God, who has visited and redeemed his people.

**C: Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

*(Introduction is played, and then congregation sings:)*

♪ **Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
thro' thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

M: Beloved in the Lord! In the beauty of this glorious celebration of our Savior's birth, our sins against a pure and holy God are still evident. Let us come before Him to make confession and be assured of His forgiveness.

**C: Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I admit my rebellious acts. My sin is always in front of me.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the miraculous birth, the perfect life and the 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: (Spoken) Amen**

♪ **Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er un through sin and vanity  
till he opened for us a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

### **Prayer for the Day**

**All: Almighty God, we thank you for the birth of your Son in the flesh that sets us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin and the law. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us rejoice in the peace you have provided for us. We ask this in the name of our Savior who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (CW 361:1,2)**

♪ *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.  
While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo, above the earth, rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,  
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,  
who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.  
Together they shout for joy,  
because with both eyes they will see it  
when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
because the LORD is comforting his people.  
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

**HYMN: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (CW 361:3)**

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

**PRAYER**

**HYMN: “Joy to the World” (CW 353:1,3)**

♪ **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.**

**Psalm 98**

M: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

**C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

M: The LORD has made his salvation known.

**C: He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of the nations.**

M: He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness to the house  
of Israel.

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Break out in joyful song! Make music!**

M: Make music to the LORD with the lyre,

**C: with the lyre and the sound of music.**

M: With trumpets and the sound of the ram’s **horn**

**C: shout for joy before the King, the LORD.**

M: Let the sea roar, and everything that fills it,

**C: the world, and all who live in it.**

M: Let the rivers clap their hands.

**C: Let the mountains sing for joy together before the LORD,**

M: for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in  
righteousness

**C: and the peoples with fairness.**

**HYMN: “Joy to the World”** (*CW 353:4*)

♪ **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.**

## **PRAYER**

**HYMN: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”** (*CW 358:1,3*)

♪ **Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.**

## **Hebrews 1:1-9**

**In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup>In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. <sup>4</sup>The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say:**

**You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?**

**And again:**

**I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.**

**<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:**

**Let all God’s angels worship him.**

**<sup>7</sup>About the angels he says:**

**He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.**

**<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says:**

**God, your throne is forever and ever,  
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy  
beyond your companions.**

**HYMN: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”** *(CW 358:4)*

**♪ Let the heights of heav’n adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
pow’rs, dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev’ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.**

**PRAYER**

**HYMN: “What Child Is This”** *(CW 344:1)*

**♪ What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!**

**John 1:1-14**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.**



<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**HYMN: "What Child Is This" (CW 344:2)**

♪ Why lies he in such mean estate where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross he'll bear for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary!

## **OFFERING**

### **LORD'S PRAYER:**

♪ (Tune of "Away in a Manger" CW #341)

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same  
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone;  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In time of temptation, to lead us, be near;  
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

**♪ Song: The Benediction** (“Adeste Fidelis” *CW*, # 55)

**M:** The Lord bless and keep you,  
Look with love upon you,  
Be gracious, and cause his face  
To shine with peace.

**C:** **Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**The Savior close beside us,**  
**God’s love from harm to hide us,**  
**The Spirit’s pow’r to guide us**  
**Evermore.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** (*CW* # 350)

**♪ Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’ incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

- 2 Corinthians 9:15



✝ **BIBLE STUDY** every Sunday at 9:00 before worship;  
also Thursdays at 10:00.

✝ **WORSHIP SERVICE** is at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

✝ **Our Worship services are streamed and archived at:**  
**[starlutheran.org](http://starlutheran.org)**



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