



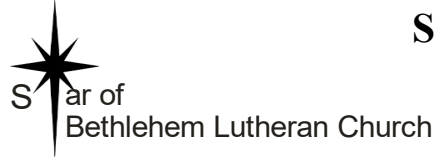
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

Matthew 5:3



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**Theme of the day:** The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength! The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a Christianity imbued with fatalism at best or defeatism at worst. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are, the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the more ready you are to trust in a future reward. Trust God's grace and you will find many reasons to trust his strength.

## 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: # 582 “Not Unto Us”**

♪ **Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;  
not unto us but to your name be praise;  
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv’n  
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**Amazing grace—that chose us e’er the worlds were made;  
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;  
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness  
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;  
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;  
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you  
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,  
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.  
Abide with us till trav’ling days are over and done,  
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to 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.** (*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 and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11-13**

**<sup>3</sup>Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.**

**<sup>11</sup>In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill.**

**<sup>12</sup>But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 1**

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



**Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.**

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.**

*Refrain*

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**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! Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of God. Alleluia. (*Matthew 5:3*)

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 5:1-12**

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:**

**<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
because they will be comforted.**

**<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the gentle,  
because they will inherit the earth.**

**<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
because they will be filled.**

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
because they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
because they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
because they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you  
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice  
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is  
how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**HYMN: # 690 “Blest Are They”**

♪ **Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, — full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**SERMON: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

**<sup>26</sup>For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, <sup>28</sup>and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before God. <sup>30</sup>But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”**

**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: # 839 “Rock of Ages”**



♪ **Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**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: # 923 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

♪ **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more  
feed me till I want no more..**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell’s destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

**WELS CONNECTION**

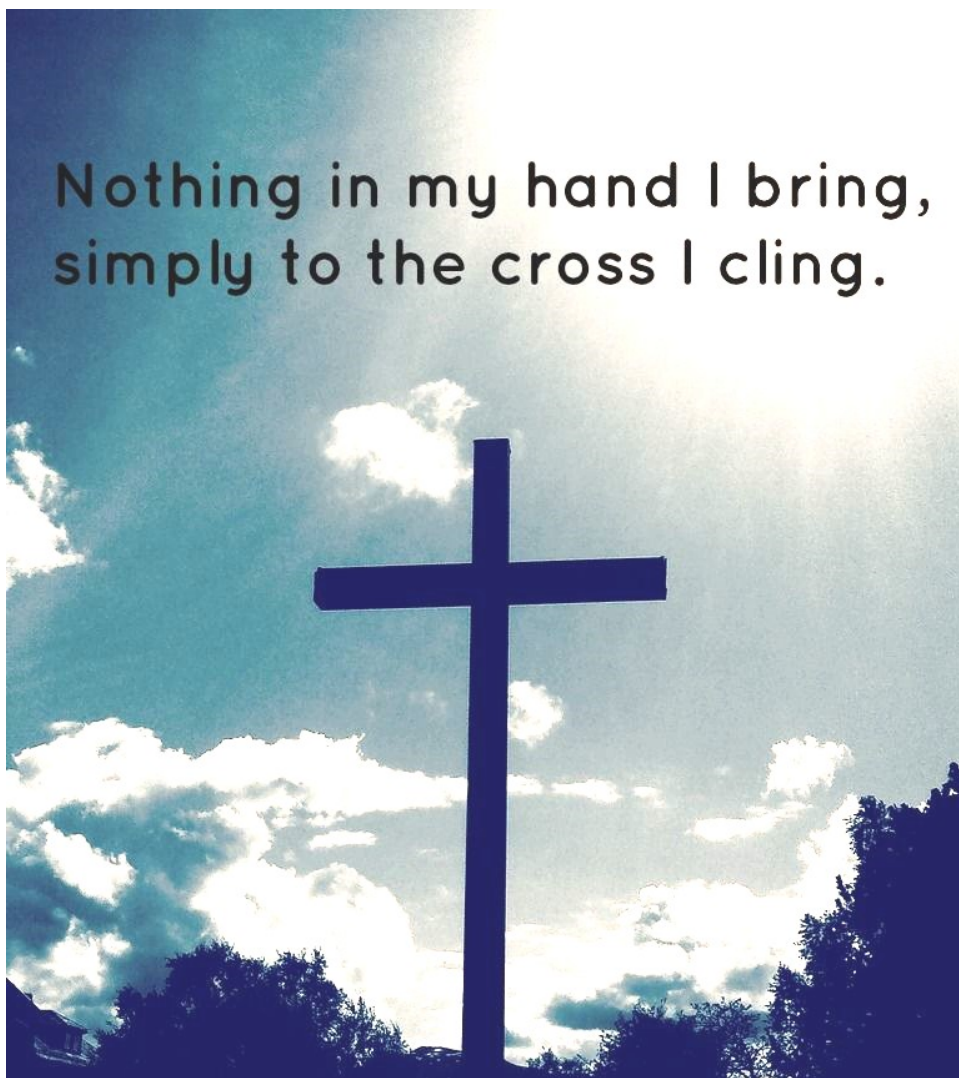
**THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday**    **ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday**   **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**  
                  **ESL, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday**     **Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
                          **Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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, Sam Daugherty, and Jeff Brown.



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