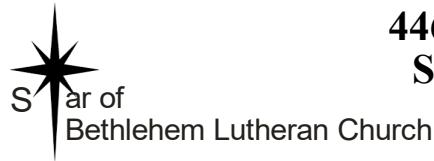


# HIS FINAL STEPS

*ASH*



*Wednesday*



4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Wednesday, February 22, 2023*

*7:00 p.m.*



**Thought for the day:** Return to the Lord! Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal. Recognition of our sin leads us to cry out for mercy and trust in God's promised forgiveness. Return to the Lord for he is gracious! Having obtained his pardon, we seek a renewal of faith and life that we might live as baptized children of God.

## 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: # 393 “Savior, When in Dust to You”**  
*(alternate melody)*

♪ **Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due,  
when, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,  
O, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below,  
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!**

**By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,  
by your days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,  
by the dread, mysterious hour  
of th’ insulting tempter’s pow’r,  
turn, oh, turn a fav’ring eye, hear our penitential cry!**

**By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o’er the dreadful sacrifice,  
listen to our humble sigh, hear our penitential cry!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
by the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav’n restored, mighty, reascended Lord,  
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!**

**REFLECTION ON LENT; SELF-EXAMINATION**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

Minister: Most holy and merciful Father,

Congregation: **We confess to you and to one another that we have  
sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**M**: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and  
strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C**: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our manipulation of other people,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**C: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

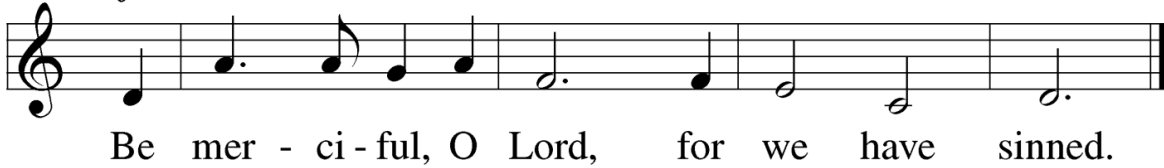
*Please be seated.*

**LESSON: Isaiah 59:12-20**

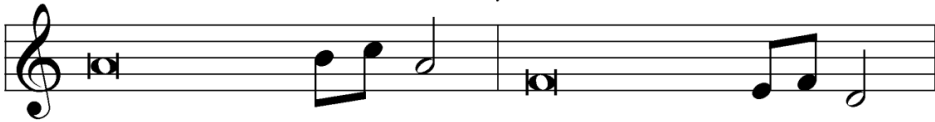
- <sup>12</sup>**Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our rebellious deeds are with us,  
and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.**
- <sup>13</sup>**Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD.  
We turn back from following our God.  
We incite oppression and apostasy.  
We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts.**
- <sup>14</sup>**Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away,  
for truth stumbles in the city square,  
and honesty cannot enter it.**
- <sup>15</sup>**The truth is missing,  
and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey.  
The LORD looked and saw something evil—  
there was no justice.**
- <sup>16</sup>**He saw that there was no one.  
He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene.  
So his own arm worked salvation for him,  
and his own righteousness supported him.**
- <sup>17</sup>**He clothed himself with righteousness like armor  
and wore a helmet of salvation on his head.  
He dressed in garments for vengeance,  
and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.**
- <sup>18</sup>**He will repay in full what they have earned,  
namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies.  
He will repay even the distant coastlands.**
- <sup>19</sup>**From the west they will fear the LORD's name,  
and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory,  
for he will come like a raging river,  
driven by the Spirit of the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup>**Then a redeemer will come for Zion  
and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion.  
This is the declaration of the LORD.**

## PSALM 51 (a)

### *Refrain*



### *Psalm tone*



Wash away all my iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is always before me.

### *Refrain*

Against you, you only, have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,\*  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

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*

M: Lord we confess our sins to you and plead for your mercy. We acknowledge that sin runs too deep in our nature for us ever to rid ourselves of it, but we thank you that Jesus has done what we could not do, washing us clean of every stain. We plead that your Spirit would give us the strength to live a new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

### LESSON: 2 Corinthians 7:8-13

<sup>8</sup>For even if I caused you sorrow with my letter, I do not regret it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter caused you sorrow—yet only for a little while). <sup>9</sup>Now I rejoice, not because you were made to feel sorrow, but because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Yes, you were made sorry in a godly way. So you were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup>In fact, godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.

<sup>11</sup>Yes, look what godly sorrow produced in you: what diligence, what eagerness to clear yourself, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what correction! In every way you proved yourselves to be pure in this matter. <sup>12</sup>So although I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did what was wrong, or because of the one who was harmed by it. I wrote instead so that your genuine concern for us would be revealed to you in the sight of God. <sup>13</sup>For that reason we have been comforted.

### HYMN: # 847 “Be Still, My Soul”

♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.  
your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
his voice who ruled them while he lived below.

**Be still, my soul, when dearest friends depart  
and all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
then you will better know his love, his heart,  
who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
from his own fullness all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

**MESSAGE: John 11** (selected verses)

**HYMN # 650 "From Depths of Woe, Lord God, I Cry"**  
*(alternate melody)*

**♪ From depths of woe, Lord God, I cry;  
O hear my humble pleading!  
Listen in mercy to my sigh, my prayer for rescue heeding!  
Were you, O Lord, to fix your gaze  
on our rebellious, sinful ways,  
then who could stand before you?**

**What we have done on our best day  
is flawed from its beginning;  
Only your grace can clear away the guilt of all our sinning.  
Before you pride must disappear;  
each soul must live in rev'rent fear,  
upon your grace relying.**

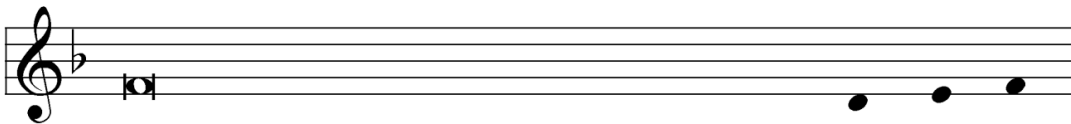
**Thus any merit of my own is void and unavailing;  
I trust in God and God alone, he is my hope unfailing.  
Since he is good, I soon will see  
the comfort he has promised me;  
I wait for its arrival.**



**If it delays into the night or waits until tomorrow,  
my heart will lean on God's great might,  
discarding doubt and sorrow.  
The Spirit of the Lord is near,  
providing strength to persevere;  
depend on God to help you!**

**Although our sin is great indeed, the grace of God is greater;  
no loss we suffer can exceed the help of our Creator.  
Our shepherd good and true is he,  
who will at last his people free  
from all their sin and sorrow.**

## OFFERING



**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



**C: A - men.**

## **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: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with your Spirit.**

M: We lift up our hearts.

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

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

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

### ***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

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

**C: Amen.**

### ***DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER***



**C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part**



**ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen**



**your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry**



**peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles**



**and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.**



**M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God**



**and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.**



**C: A - men.**

**CLOSING HYMN: # 789 “All Praise to Thee, My God”**

♪ **All praise to thee, my God, this night  
for all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thine own almighty wings.  
Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son  
the ill that I this day have done,  
that with the world, myself, and thee  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live that I may dread  
the grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die so that I may  
rise glorious at the awe-full day.  
Oh, may my soul on thee repose  
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
to serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,  
my soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
no pow'rs of darkness me distress.  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

