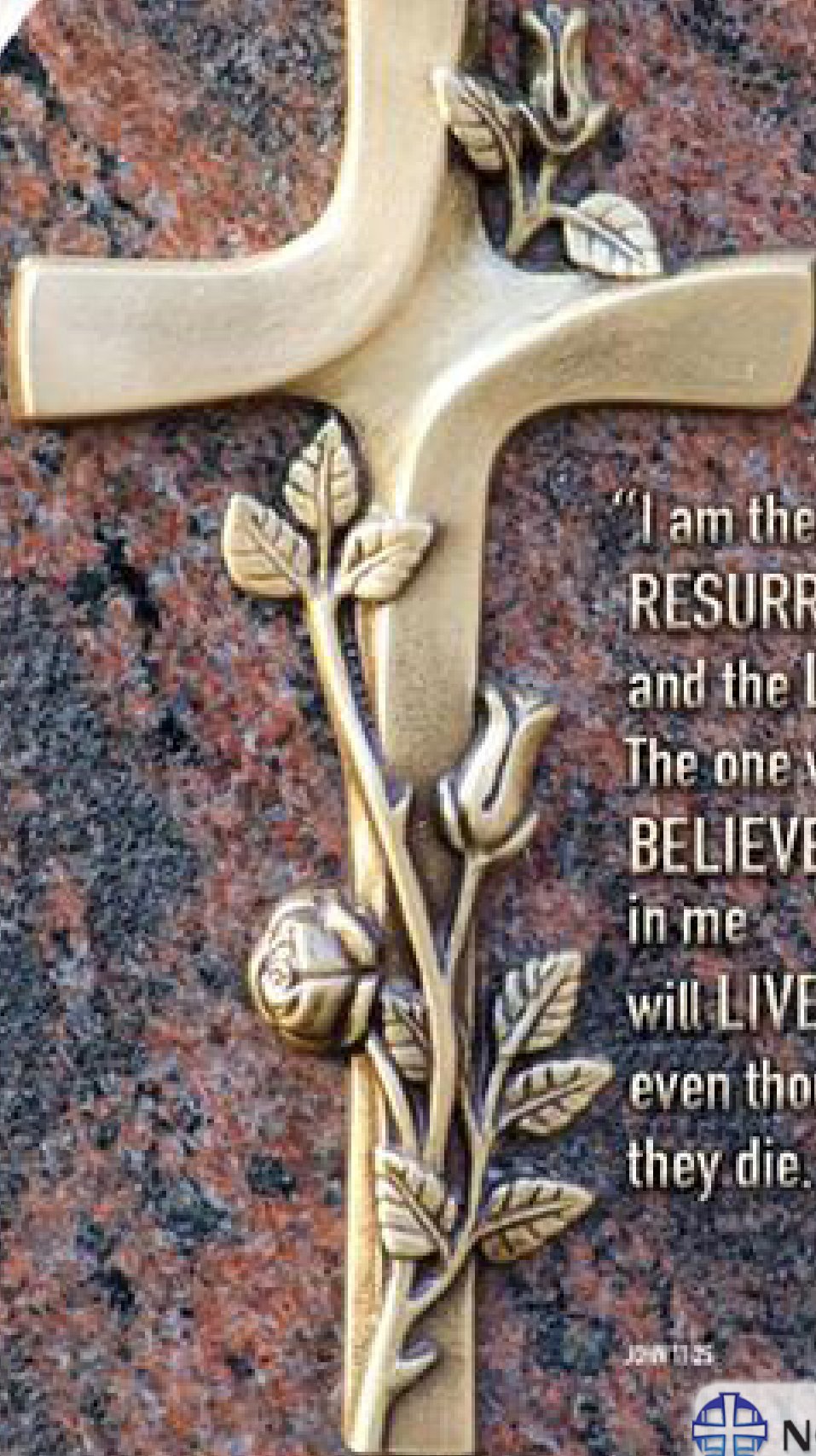




**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

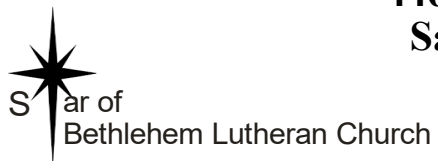


“I am the
RESURRECTION
and the **LIFE**.
The one who
BELIEVES
in me
will **LIVE**,
even though
they die.”

JOHN 11:25



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, March 26, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: Jesus will raise us from death to life. The crown jewel of the coming kingdom is the resurrection of the dead. One day, Jesus will defeat the last enemy and life will reign in our new Eden with God. On our Lenten walk to Calvary, the Church sees the Savior who came face to face with death and defeated it. God help us remember that Jesus, the Life, has made us heirs of eternal life.

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: # 444 “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

♪ **Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me.
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
this shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To him the throne
high o’er heav’n and earth is given.
I shall go where he is gone,
live and reign with him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me he died; hence will I, to Jesus living,
pure in heart and act abide, praise to him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; this shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from him shall sever,
Life nor death nor pow’rs of hell
part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure defense; this shall be my confidence.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Jesus lives! And now is death but the gate to life immortal;
this shall calm my trembling breath
when I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: “Jesus is my confidence!”**

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: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; 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: 2 Kings 4:17-37

¹⁷But the woman conceived, and she gave birth to a son at that same time of year, just as Elisha said to her.

¹⁸The boy grew up, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. ¹⁹Then he said to his father, “My head! My head!”

His father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” ²⁰So he picked him up and carried him to his mother, and the boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died.

²¹Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She shut the door behind her and went out. ²²Then she called to her husband and said, “Send one of the servants to me with one of the donkeys, so that I can run to the man of God and come back.”

²³He said, “Why are you going to him today? It’s not the new moon, and it’s not the Sabbath.”

But she said, “It’s all right.”

²⁴Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead the way. Don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.”

²⁵So she went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her from a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! That’s the woman from Shunem! ²⁶Now run to meet her and say, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your son all right?’ ”

She answered, “We’re all right.”

²⁷Then she came to the man of God at the mountain, and she grasped his feet. Gehazi stepped forward to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is in distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me. He has not told me.”

²⁸Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Don’t give me false hope’?”

²⁹Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Hike up your garments for travel, and take my staff in your hand and go! If you meet someone, do not greet him, and if someone greets you, do not answer. Put my staff on the boy’s face.”

³⁰But the boy’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

³¹Gehazi went ahead of them and put the staff on the boy’s face. But there was no sound, and there was no response. So he went back to Elisha and told him, “The boy did not wake up.”

³²When Elisha came to the house, there the boy was—dead, lying on his bed. ³³So he went in and he shut the door behind the two of them. Then he prayed to the LORD.

³⁴He got up and lay down on top of the boy. He put his mouth to the boy's mouth, his eyes to the boy's eyes, his palms to the boy's palms. Then he bent down over him, and the boy's flesh became warm. ³⁵He went back into the house and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him, and the boy sneezed seven times. Then the boy opened his eyes.

³⁶Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call the woman of Shunem!" So he called her, and she came in. He said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷So she came in and fell at Elisha's feet and bowed down to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 130

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

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

GOSPEL LESSON: John 11:17-27, 38-45

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. ²⁶And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?"

²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

³⁸Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹"Take away the stone," he said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days."

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, "Loose him and let him go."

⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

HYMN: # 592 "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

**♪ Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high,
living, life-imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.**

**Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ,
you we praise with endless worship
for your gracious gifts unpriced.**

**Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry,
teaching, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.**

SERMON: Romans 8:11-19

¹¹And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you.

¹²So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in

harmony with it. ¹³For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

¹⁴Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “*Abba, Father!*” ¹⁶The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

¹⁷Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.

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: # 746 “I Love to Tell the Story”

**♪ I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story because I know it’s true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story; ’twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**O wonderful redemption! The price for sin is paid,
salvation is accomplished, my heart is unafraid,
for God has raised Christ Jesus to show the work was done;
his glorious resurrection declared the vict'ry won!
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

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: # 502 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

**♪ Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God his own doth tend and nourish;
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Janetta's birthday.

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.

EASTER BRUNCHEON: After our Easter worship, April 9th, we will join in a fellowship meal. Ham is being provided for all, so if you wouldn't mind bringing supporting side dishes and desserts, we should have a nice spread.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Saturday CLEAN-UP/WORK DAY— 9:00-12:00
Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - April 2, 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - April 6, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday - April 7, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

led to...

Ash Wednesday, February 22a tomb.
Midweek 2, March 1 a dinner celebration.
Midweek 3, March 8 His Father's house.
Midweek 4, March 15 a fig tree.
Midweek 5, March 22 some Greeks.
Midweek 6, March 29 His enemies.