



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

*My eyes have seen your salvation,*

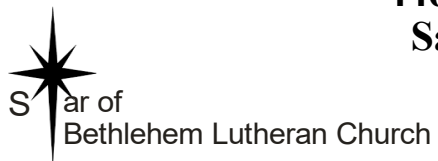


Luke 1:30,31

**which you have prepared in the sight  
of all nations .**



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

## Worship Service

*Sunday, December 31st, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### First Sunday after Christmas

**Theme of the day:** There are two great miracles of Christmas: the one that God has become man for us and for our salvation, *and* that he in grace reveals the first miracle even to me and blesses me with all its benefits.



## 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.

**HYMN: # 362 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”**

♪ **Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
loudly sing his love amazing,  
worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Christ, from heav’n to us descending  
and in love our race befriending,  
in our need his help extending,  
saved us from the wily foe.**

**Jacob’s Star in all its splendor  
beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
forcing Satan to surrender,  
breaking all the pow’rs of hell.**

**From the bondage that oppressed us,  
from sin’s fetters that possessed us,  
from the grief that sore distressed us,  
we, the captives, now are free.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
when by faith we grasp this blessing,  
when, O Christ, we come addressing  
thanks to you and highest praise!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,  
from your lowly manger cheer us,  
gently lead us and be near us  
till we join th’ angelic choir.**

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.**

The musical score is written in treble clef, G major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The music features a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties, and ends with a double bar line.

**M: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith**

shine in all we do; 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: Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 111

#### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

#### *Psalm tone*



Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
and his righteousness endures forever.**

**He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

*Refrain*

**The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.**

**He provided redemption for his people;\*  
he ordained his covenant forever.**

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.**

**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. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people. Alleluia.   *(Luke 2:30,31)***

**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: Luke 2:22-40**

**<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup>And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”**

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,

<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup>Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup>Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

**HYMN: # 347 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

♪ Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Magi, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar.  
seek the great desire of nations;  
you have seen the Savior's star.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**SERMON: Isaiah 63:7-9**

**<sup>7</sup>I will tell about the LORD's mercies,  
about the praises of the LORD,  
about all that the LORD has done for us,  
about his great goodness to the house of Israel,  
which he performed for them according to his abundant  
compassion,  
and according to his great mercy.**

**<sup>8</sup>He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely,"  
so he became their Savior.**

**<sup>9</sup>In all their anguish he felt anguish,  
and the Angel of his Presence saved them.  
In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them,  
and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.**



## **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: # 332 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"**

**♪ Let us all with gladsome voice  
praise the God of heaven,  
who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
his own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears he comes,  
here to serve in sadness,  
that with him in heav'n's fair homes  
we may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for he was poor;  
is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
here on earth and yonder.**

**Christ our Lord and Savior dear,  
bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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: # 820 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

♪ **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**

**Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
we fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!**

#### WELS CONNECTION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, and Rich Olerich.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2024 are in the fellowship hall.

**THANK YOU:** Pastor and Theresa thank the members of Star for the extremely generous gift of money given to them on Christmas Day. Thank you also for the cards, greetings, goodies, and other gifts.

**STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please update your personal information as it changes (either online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:

[members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)

Follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.”

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for “Instant Church Directory”

\*\*\* You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## THIS WEEK

**Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

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