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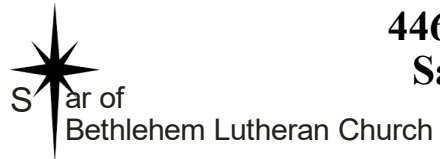


Wednesday



**GOD
ON
TRIAL**

 Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

Worship Service

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

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, O, 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: Joel 2:12-19

¹²Even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and grief.

¹³Tear your heart and not your clothing.

**Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and
abounding in mercy,
and he relents from sending disaster.**

¹⁴Who knows?

**He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.**

**¹⁵Blow the ram's horn in Zion. Set aside a day for fasting.
Call a solemn convocation. ¹⁶Gather the people.**

Consecrate the assembly. Bring together the elders.

Gather the children, even those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

**¹⁷Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the temple porch and the altar.**

Let them say: Have compassion on your people, O LORD.

**Do not subject the inheritance you have given us to the
scorn of the nations.**

**Do not make us notorious among the nations as an object of
ridicule.**

**Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their
God?"**


**¹⁸The LORD is zealous for his land, and he will take pity on
his people.**

**¹⁹The LORD will respond to them: I am sending you grain, new
wine, and fresh oil, enough to satisfy you fully.**

Never again will I subject you to scorn among the nations.

PSALM 51 (a)

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

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*

LESSON: Revelation 3:1-3

To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:

The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this: I know your works. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what is left, which is about to die, for I have found that your works are not complete in the sight of my God. ³Therefore remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and repent! If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come upon you.

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: Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?”

¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.”

¹⁶He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.”’

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’

²¹“That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

HYMN: # 408 “He Stood before the Court”

♪ He stood before the court on trial instead of us;
he met its pow’r to hurt, condemned to face the cross—
our King, accused of treachery;
our God, abused for blasphemy!

**These are the crimes that tell the tale of human guilt;
our sins, our death, our hell— on these the case is built.
To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays dumb.
The guilt is ours; no answers come.**

**The sentence must be passed, the unknown pris'ner killed;
the price is paid at last, the law of God fulfilled.
He takes our blame, and from that day
th' accuser's claim is wiped away.**

**Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is done;
we live, for he has died, our condemnation gone.
In Christ are we both dead and raised,
alive and free—his name be praised!**

MESSAGE: Job

40 The LORD responded to Job and said: ²Will the one who makes charges against the Almighty dare to correct him?

The one who accuses God should make his case!

42 Job responded to the LORD. He said: ²I know that you can do all things. No purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³You asked, “Who is this who spreads darkness over my plans with his ignorant words?”

I have made statements about things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴You said, “Listen now and I will speak.

I will ask you questions, and you will inform me.”

⁵My ear heard about you. Now my eyes see you.

⁶So I despise myself. I repent in dust and ashes.

HYMN: # 394 “Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain”

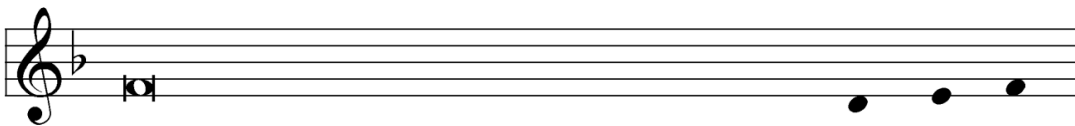
**♪ Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
wash your robes and make them white;
you shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,
wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission,
here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
they that drink shall thirst no more**

**They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
signed when our Redeemer died,
sealed when he was glorified.**

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.**

