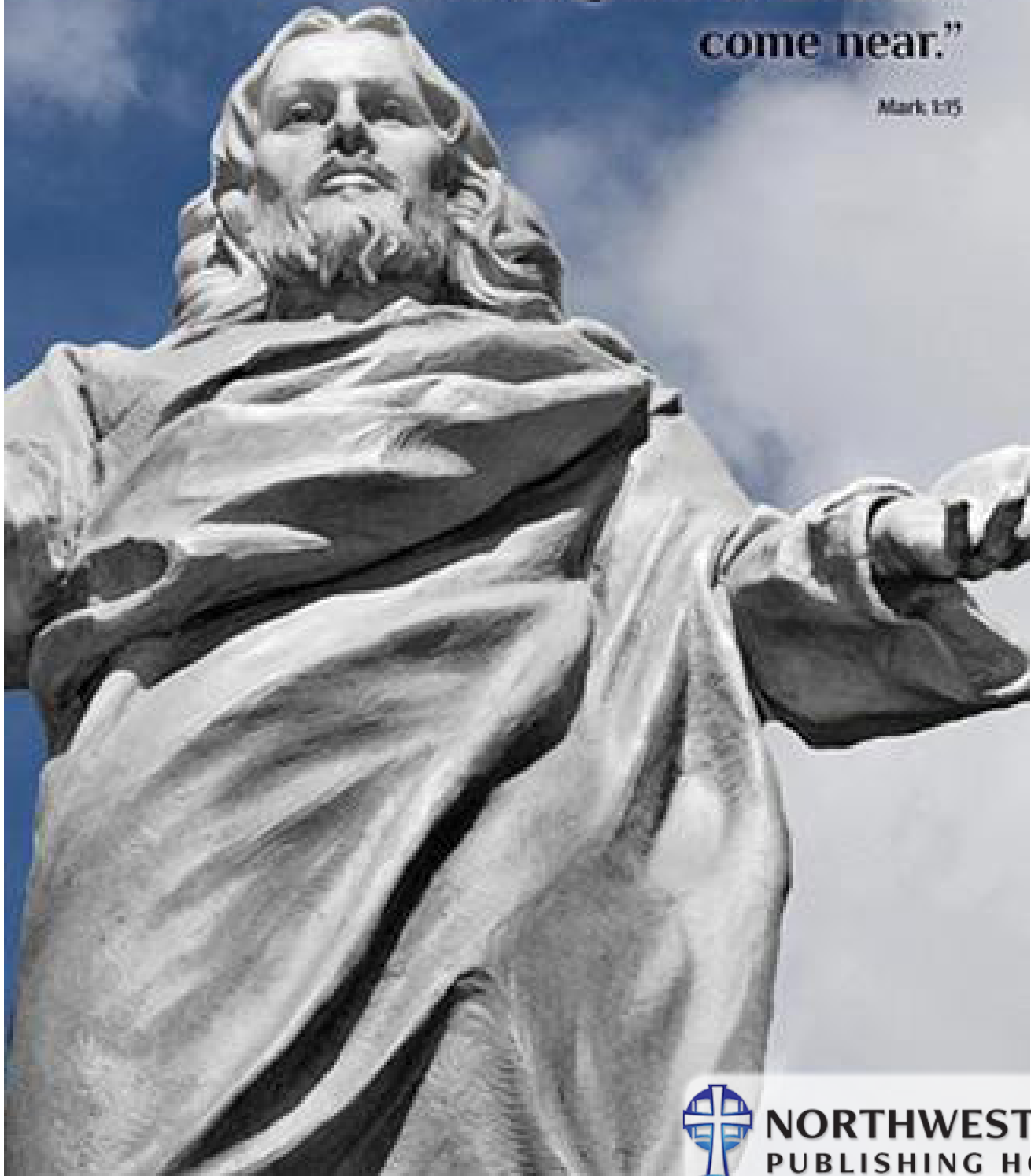




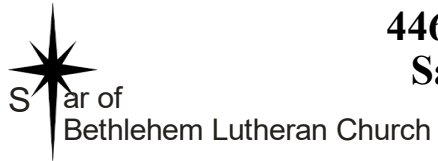
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“The time has come. . . .
The kingdom of God has
come near.”**

Mark 1:15



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, February 18, 2024 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: Jesus Christ came into this world to live and die as our substitute. He led the perfect life we could not live because of sin and died in our place, suffering the vengeance of all our sins. No one can take from us the salvation that is in Christ Jesus nor separate us from the love of God that we have through Christ.

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: # 422 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

♪ **A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, our guilt and evil bearing
and, laden with the sins of earth,
none else the burden sharing,
goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
to slaughter led without complaint,
that spotless life to offer;
bears shame and stripes and wounds and death,
anguish and mockery and saith, “Willing all this I suffer.”**

**This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
the Lamb of God, our Savior;
him God the Father chose to send to gain for us his favor.
“Go forth, my Son,” the Father said,
“and free my children from their dread
of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
but by your passion they will share
the fruit of your salvation.”**

**“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I’ll bear what you command me.
My will conforms to your decree;
I’ll do what you have asked me.”
O wondrous Love, what have you done!
The Father offers up his Son, desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong you are to save!
You make his bed within the grave
who built the earth’s foundation.**

Please stand for last verse:

**From morn till eve, in all I do,
I’ll praise you, Christ, my treasure.
To sacrifice myself for you shall be my aim and pleasure.
My stream of life shall ever be a current flowing ceaselessly,
your constant praise outpouring. I’ll treasure in my memory,
O Lord, all you have done for me, your gracious love adoring.**

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)**

Confession of Sins

M: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C. ♪ Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

M: Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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: Romans 8:31-39

³¹What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

³³Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! ³⁴Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! ³⁵What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**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: It is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”
(Matthew 4:10)

C: We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. *(Hebrews 4:15)*

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:12-15

¹²The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness.
¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

HYMN: # 525 “The Lamb”

♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, one perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

**The Lamb, the Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill
so still, his will, on our behalf the law to fill.**

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives, he gives me His own righteousness.

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

He rose, He rose, my heart with thanks now overflows.

His song prolong till ev'ry heart to Him belong.

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

SERMON: Genesis 22:1-14

**Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him,
“Abraham!” Abraham answered, “I am here.”**

**²God said, “Now take your son, your only son, whom you love,
Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt of-
fering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct
you.”**

**³Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and
took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son.
Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to
go to the place that God had told him about. ⁴On the third day
Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.**

**⁵Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey.
The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we
will come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt of-
fering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the
knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.**

⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father?”

He said, “I am here, my son.”

**He said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb
for a burnt offering?”**

⁸Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together. ⁹They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham said, “I am here.”

¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

¹³Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴Abraham called the name of that place “The LORD Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

The Holy Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: ♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

The Words of Institution

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

C: **♪ Amen.**

♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world grant us your peace. Amen.

HYMN: # 404 “Jesus. Grant That Balm and Healing”

**♪ Jesus, grant that balm and healing in your holy wounds I find,
ev’ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,
show the peril, and from sinning
keep me ere its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation
fascinate my sinful mind,
let me think about your passion, and new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,
saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”
that the tempter flee confounded.**

**If the world my heart entices with the broad and easy road,
with seductive, sinful vices, let me weigh the awful load
you were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure,
mastering each wild temptation,
calm in prayer and meditation.**

**Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
by your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
when I'm weak, your cross revives me,
granting new life to my soul.
Yes, your comfort renders sweet ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
for your all-atoning passion has procured my soul's salvation.**

**O my God, my rock and tower,
grant that in your death I trust,
knowing death has lost his power
since you crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let your agony ever help and comfort me;
when I die be my protection, light and life and resurrection.**

THANKSGIVING - HYMN # 953, verses 1,4,5

Please stand.

**♪ Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.**

**You are King of glory, Christ, Son of God, yet born of Mary,
for us sinners sacrificed, on the cross our sins did carry;
first to break the bars of death,
you have opened heav'n to faith.**

**Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one, undivided God we claim you,
and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **♪ 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: # 711 “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”

**♪ Jesus calls us o’er the tumult
of our life’s wild, restless sea;
day by day his voice invites us,
saying, “Christian, follow me!”**

**As the first disciples heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, “Christian, love me more.”**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

**Jesus calls us! In your mercy,
Savior, help us hear your call;
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Lyons in observance of the season of Lent.

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 Terry's siblings Linda & Carp.

LWMS SPRING RALLY: March 9, 8:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m., at Calvary Lutheran Church, Canyon Country.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.
	ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
	Worship, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

Work Day: Saturday, March 23, 9:00-12:00

Holy Week:

Passion Sunday - March 24, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - March 28, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - March 29, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - March 31, 10:00 a.m.

**God did not spare his own Son,
but gave him up for us all.**



PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.