



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

"WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR SOMEONE
TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,



YET FORFEIT THEIR SOUL?"

Mark 8:36



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PUBLISHING HOUSE



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: Lent has to last a while and come around every year if for no other reason than this, that it is so hard for us to get the points made so strikingly in Lent. This Sunday we see God's seriousness in Lent in this: Salvation and suffering go hand in hand, for Jesus and also for us!

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: # 918 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;
our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with grace divine,
and let your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing your praise;
our souls to you in worship raise.
Make strong our faith; increase our light
that we may know your name aright

Until we join the hosts that cry,
“O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place
we then shall see you face to face.

Please stand for last verse:

All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise throughout eternity!

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: 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes. The score begins with a C-clef and ends with a double bar line.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

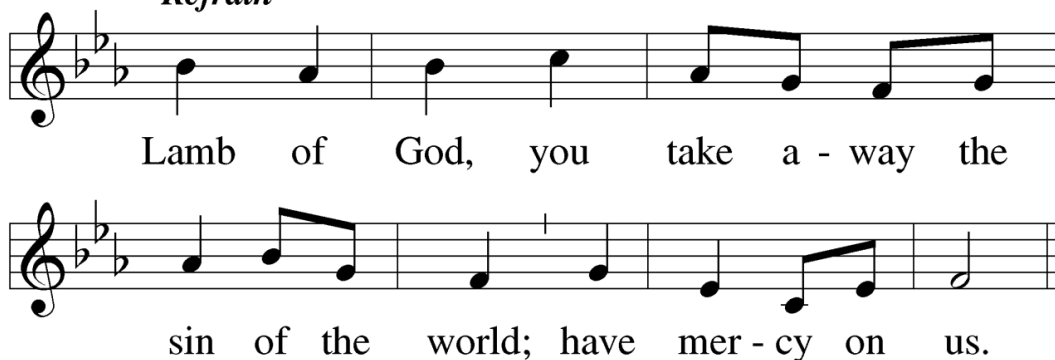
³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 22

Refrain



Psalm tone



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*
Why are you so far from saving me?

I am a worm and not a man,*
scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;*
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.*
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

Refrain

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks
to the roof of my mouth;*
you lay me in the dust of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me,*
they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them*
and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;*
O my Strength, come quickly to help 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

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. *(Hebrews 12:2)*

C: “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” *(Mark 8:34)*

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 8:31-38

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men.”

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

HYMN: # 694 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

**♪ Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow you;
destitute, despised, forsaken, you on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev’ry fond ambition, all I’ve ever hoped or known;
yet how rich is my condition,
God and heav’n are still my own!**

**Let the world despise and leave me;
they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
you are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
foes may hate and friends may shun me;
show your face, and all is bright.**

**Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In your service pain is pleasure, with your favor loss is gain.
I have called you Abba, Father; you my all in all shall be.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,
all must work for good to me.**

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
armed by faith and winged by prayer;
all but heav’n is transitory,
God’s own hand shall guide you there.
Soon shall end this earthly story,
swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
hope soon change to heav’nly glory,
faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

SERMON: Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰Jacob set out from Beersheba and traveled toward Haran.
¹¹He came to a certain place and decided to spend the night there,
because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from that place,
put it under his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. ¹²He had
a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top
reaching to heaven. There were angels of God ascending and de-
scending on it. ¹³There at the top stood the LORD, who said, “I am
the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.

The land on which you are lying, I give to you and to your descendants. ¹⁴Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. ¹⁵Now, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back again into this land. Indeed, I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you.”

¹⁶Jacob woke up from his sleep, and he said, “Certainly the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷He was afraid and he said, “How awe-inspiring is this place! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven.”

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: “Nearer, My God, to Thee”

♪ **Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.**

**Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, My rest a stone,
Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.**

**There let my way appear Steps unto heaven;
All that Thou sendest me In mercy given;
Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.**

**Then with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise,
So by my woes to be Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.**

**Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.**

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.

HYMN: # 420:1,4,6 “Jesus I Will Ponder Now”

**♪ Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
with your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
of your suff’ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

**Grant that I your passion view with repentant grieving;
let me not bring shame to you by unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun ev’ry sinful pleasure
since for me God’s only Son suffered without measure?**

**Graciously my faith renew; help me bear my crosses,
learning humbleness from you, peace mid pain and losses.
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav’n above sing your praise forever.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today’s service are given to the glory of God in celebration of Terry Oberg’s birthday.

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	Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Communion, 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.

