



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



*God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world, but to save the world
through him.*

John 3:17



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PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: Traditionally this Sunday was called *Laetare*, “Rejoice” Sunday. We rejoice in the middle of Lent that God has so fully and so perfectly taken to heart our only real need as sinners and satisfied it in 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: # 409 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

♪ **Jesus, refuge of the weary,
blest Redeemer, whom we love,
fountain in life’s desert dreary,
Savior from the world above,
often have your eyes, offended,
gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
yet, upon the cross extended,
you endured the pain of all.**

**Dare we pass that cross unheeding,
breathing no repentant vow,
as we see you wounded, bleeding,
see your thorn-encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought us
life eternal, peace, and rest,
only what your grace has taught us
calms the sinner’s deep distress.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning
with more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever turning
to behold your cross anew,
till in glory, parted never
from the blessed Savior’s side,
graven in our hearts forever
dwell the cross, the Crucified!**

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: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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.

FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

³Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 32

Refrain



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



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

Psalm tone



Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*
whose sins are covered.

**When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you*
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”*
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Refrain

**You are my hiding place;*
you will protect me from trouble.**

**Many are the woes of the wicked,*
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in
him.**

**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: For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal
life. (*John 3:16*)

GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:14-21

¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

HYMN: # 574 “The Tree of Life”

**♪ The tree of life with ev’ry good
in Eden’s holy orchard stood,
and of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
another tree, of which they knew;
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
against whose eating God had warned.**

**The stillness of that sacred grove
was broken, as the serpent strove
with tempting voice Eve to beguile
and Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
its awful poison first displayed
within the world so newly made.**

**What mercy God showed to our race,
a plan of rescue by His grace,
in sending One from woman's seed,
the One to fill our greatest need —
for on a tree uplifted high
his only Son for sin would die,
would drink the cup of scorn and dread
to crush the ancient serpent's head!**

**Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
flows life eternal in His name;
for all who trust and will believe,
salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
the Lord invites the world to eat,
to find within this cross of wood
the tree of life with ev'ry good.**

SERMON: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

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: # 811 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

**♪ My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, O, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life’s transient dream,
when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll,
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

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: # 519 "There Is a Redeemer"

♪ **There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.**

*Thank you O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till
the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
hope for sinners slain.**

Refrain

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
there I'll serve my King forever,
in that holy place.**

Refrain

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, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry's siblings Linda & Carp, and Kathryn Pereira.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	Circuit Meeting (Lancaster) 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 Holy 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.



