



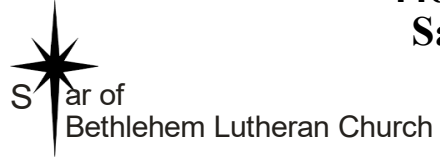
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“People will see the
Son of Man
coming in clouds
with
**great
power
and
glory.**”

MARK 13:26



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, November 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Theme of the day:

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.**

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: # 487 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

♪ **Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev’ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

Please stand for last verse:

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow’r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

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 eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the sixth line.

N: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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: Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴Pay attention to me, O my people.
My nation, listen to me!
For the law will go out from me,
and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness is near.
My salvation goes forth,
and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.
The seacoasts will wait for me.
They will have confidence in my arm.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens.
Look closely at the earth beneath,
because the heavens will vanish like smoke,
and the earth will wear out like a garment,
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will remain forever,
and my righteousness will never be abolished.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 45

Refrain

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-

lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone *

My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

**Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.**

**In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.**

Refrain

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.**

**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. So be alert, because you do not know on what day your
Lord is coming. Alleluia. (*Matthew 24:42*)**

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SECOND LESSON: Jude 20-25

²⁰But you, dear friends, continue to build yourselves up in your most holy faith as you keep praying in the Holy Spirit. ²¹Keep yourselves in God's love as you continue to wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which results in eternal life. ²²Show mercy to those who are wavering. ²³Save others by snatching them out of the fire. Show mercy to still others with fear, hating even the clothing that is stained by the flesh.

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless in the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, now, and to all eternity. Amen.

HYMN: # 855 "The Church's One Foundation"

**♪ The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.**

**The Church shall never perish. Her dear Lord, to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end.
Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.**

**Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.**

SERMON: Mark 13:26-37

²⁶Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

²⁸“Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! ³⁰Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

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: # 493 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

**♪ Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;
go forth, as he approaches, with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints, who here in patience your cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb you shall behold,
in triumph lay before him your shining crowns of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption that sets your people free.**

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: # 835 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

 **Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears and the night draws near
and the day is almost gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration Carl & Janetta's 38th anniversary.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb & 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 Oberg's siblings Linda and Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, Joe Wilkinson, and Phil Swan.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: December 1st, after the service, we will be decorating the sanctuary and fellowship hall. You are all welcome to join us in the fun. (And there will be snacks. 😊)

MEDITATIONS for the next quarter are on the shelf in the narthex. Treat yourself (and maybe someone you know) to this very beneficial devotional resource.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Thanksgiving Celebration, 10:00 a.m. No Bible Class; No ESL
Sunday	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating

COMING UP

Living Nativity, December 15, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Las Posadas, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.

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