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*May he strengthen your hearts
so that you will be **blameless and
holy** in the presence of our God
and Father when our Lord Jesus
comes with all his holy ones.*

1 Thessalonians 3:13



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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, December 1, 2024 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of ADVENT

Theme of the day: Eagerly looking forward to Jesus' second advent, we join in the excitement of the Palm Sunday crowd, making the preparations God instructs and joining our voices to shout: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" This Sunday, we clearly proclaim the purpose for Jesus' coming. His coming brings salvation.

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.

BAPTISM HYMN: # 646 “See This Wonder in the Making”

♪ **See this wonder in the making:
God himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in his keeping,
His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**Miracle each time it happens
As the door of heaven opens
And the Father beams, “Beloved,
Heir of gifts a king would covet!”**

**Far more tender than a mother,
Far more caring than a father,
God, into your arms we place *him*,
With your love and peace embrace *him*.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Here we bring a child of nature;
Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God’s precious son or daughter,
Born again by Word and water.**

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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

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. *Please be seated.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptism of Jace Henry Evers

EXHORTATION

PRAYER


ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING INTROIT

♪ **Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.**

M: The darkness of sin and unbelief are shattered by the light of the Gospel. The **Prophecy Candle** gives us the first flicker of hope as we watch for the coming of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation. He is humble and is riding on a donkey. Alleluia.
(Zechariah 9:9)

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸After Jesus had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ahead, ³⁰saying, “Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you will say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found things just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”


³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵Then they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their robes on the colt and set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their robes on the road. ³⁷As he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God joyfully, with a loud voice, for all the miracles they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰He replied, “I tell you, if these people would be silent, the stones would cry out.”

HYMN: # 302 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

 **Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!**
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness, so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

MESSAGE: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line. He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. This is what she will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

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

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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.

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.

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.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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.**

COMMUNION HYMN: # 324 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

♪ **O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
to show me how to please you, to guide me ev’ry day.**

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race!**

**Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn o'er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, he's standing at the door
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.**

**Sin's debt, that fearful burden, let not your souls distress;
your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
his children thus securing eternal life in heav'n.**

**He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes,
a light of consolation, and blessed hope to those
who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams most cheering, and guide us safely home.**

Thanksgiving

Please stand.

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads
his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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: # 313 “Hark the Glad Sound!”

♪ **Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
and ev’ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris’ners to release,
in Satan’s bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav’n’s eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Chris and Terry Oberg.

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 Amarrillas, 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.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday ESL (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**

Thursday Bible Class, **10:00 a.m.**

ESL, **6:00 p.m.**

Sunday Bible Class & Sunday School, **9:00 a.m.**

Worship, **10:00 a.m.**

COMING UP

Living Nativity and Las Posadas—December 15, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please update your personal information as it changes (either online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.”

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for “Instant Church Directory”

*** You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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.

**... our salvation is nearer now
than when we first believed.**



- Romans 13:11