



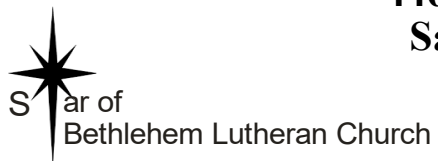
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



[Jesus asked,] "Didn't you know
I had to be in my Father's house?"



Luke 2:49
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, December 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

Theme of the day: The Son of God came into this world to serve as our Substitute under the law of God.



As our brother in humanity, Christ did what we cannot — he perfectly kept that law of God, and he freed us from the guilt and power of sin.

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: # 346 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; 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: Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

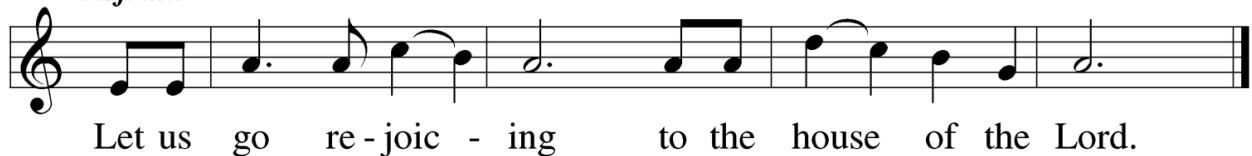
He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

⁵The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back.

⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me,
 and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.
 I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.
⁷The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced.
 Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.
 I know that I will not be put to shame.
⁸The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me?
 Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me?
 Let him approach me.
⁹Look, the LORD God will help me.
 Who then can declare me guilty?
 Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.
 A moth will consume them.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 84

Refrain



Psalm tone



How lovely is your dwelling place,*
 O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,*
 for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;*
 they are ever praising you.

Refrain

Better is one day in your courts*
 than a thousand elsewhere;

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**O LORD Almighty,*
blessed are they who trust in you.**

**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. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have
prepared before the face of all people. Alleluia. (Luke 2:30,31)**

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 2:41-52

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father’s business?” ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

HYMN: # 329 “All My Heart Again Rejoices”

**♪ All my heart again rejoices
as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.**

**Hear! The conqueror has spoken:
“Now the foe, sin and woe, death and hell are broken!”
God is man, man to deliver,
and the Son now is one with our blood forever.**

**Should we fear our God’s displeasure,
who, to save, freely gave his most precious treasure?
To redeem us he has given
his own Son from the throne of his might in heaven.**

**See the Lamb, our sin once taking
to the cross, suff’ring loss, full atonement making.
For our life his own he tenders,
and his grace all our race fit for glory renders.**

**Softly from his lowly manger
Jesus calls one and all, “You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
you are freed; all you need I will surely give you.”**

**Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness;
we shall live with him forever
there on high in that joy which will vanish never.**

SERMON: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings.

¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil)

¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring.

¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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: # 355 “Let All Together Praise Our God”

**♪ Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;
today he opens heav’n again and gives us his own Son,
and gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne,
is born an infant small,
and in a manger, poor and lone, lies in a humble stall,
lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow’r divine a servant’s form to take,
in want and lowliness must pine
who heav’n and earth did make,
who heav’n and earth did make.**

**He undertakes a great exchange, puts on our human frame,
and in return gives us his realm, his glory, and his name,
his glory, and his name.**

**He serves that I a lord may be— a great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus’ love do more for me to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?**

**For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.**

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: # 368 "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year"

**♪ Now greet the swiftly changing year
with joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.**

**Remember now the Son of God
and how he shed his infant blood.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.**

**This Jesus came to end sin's war;
this name of names for us he bore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.**

**His love abundant far exceeds
the volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.**

**With him as Lord to lead our way
in want and in prosperity,
what need we fear in earth or space
in this new year of grace?**

**“All glory be to God on high,
and peace on earth!” the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.**

**God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline your ear;
upon our lives rich blessing trace
in this new year of grace.**

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

MISSION OFFERING: The designated recipient of our Mission Offering for the next six months is St. John Lutheran Church, Tarzana. If you wish your Mission Offering (special monthly envelope) to be used for something else, please let us know.

THIS WEEK

Thursday Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Elders

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

Arise, shine,



for your light has come!

www.starlutheran.org

