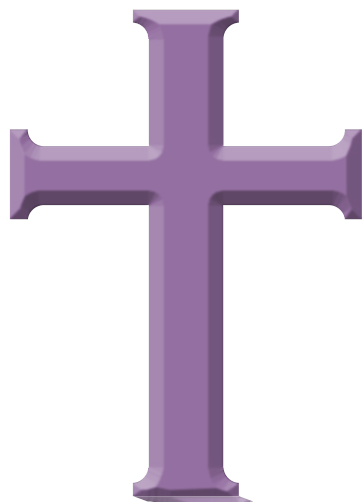


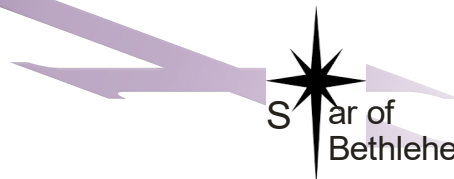
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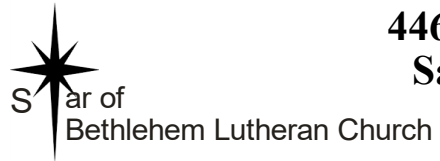
*Wednesday*



**REFLECTIONS  
on  
REPENTANCE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Wednesday, March 5, 2025 7:00 p.m.*



**Thought for the day:** Return to the Lord! Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal. Recognition of our sin leads us to cry out for mercy and trust in God's promised forgiveness. Return to the Lord for he is gracious! Having obtained his pardon, we seek a renewal of faith and life that we might live as baptized children of God.

## 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: # 916 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

♪ Today your mercy calls us to wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, whatever we have been,  
however long from mercy our hearts have turned away,  
your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, and all who enter in  
shall find a Father’s welcome and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv’n,  
a future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav’n.

Today our Father calls us, his Holy Spirit waits;  
his blessed angels gather around the heav’nly gates.  
No question will be asked us how often we have come;  
although we oft have wandered, it is our Father’s home.

*Please stand for last verse:*

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
what should we do without you when heart and eye run o’er?  
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,  
we know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

## REFLECTION ON LENT; SELF-EXAMINATION

### CONFESSION OF SINS

Minister: Most holy and merciful Father,

Congregation: We confess to you and to one another that we have  
sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our manipulation of other people,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,

**C: We confess to you, Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**C: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2**

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

**6** As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.

**Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!**

**PSALM 51 (a)**

*Refrain*



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

*Psalm tone*



**Have mercy on me, O God,\*  
according to your unfailing love.**

**Wash away all my iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is always before me.**

*Refrain*

**Against you, you only, have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**Surely I was sinful at birth,\*  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

**Hide your face from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my iniquity.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain 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***

M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### **LESSON: Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others:

<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

<sup>13</sup>“However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**HYMN: # 393 “Savior, When in Dust to You”**

*(alternate melody)*

♪ **Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due,  
when, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,  
O, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below,  
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!**

**By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,  
by your days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,  
by the dread, mysterious hour  
of th’ insulting tempter’s pow’r,  
turn, O, turn a fav’ring eye, hear our penitential cry!**

**By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o’er the dreadful sacrifice,  
listen to our humble sigh, hear our penitential cry!**

**By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
by the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav’n restored, mighty, reascended Lord,  
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!**

**MESSAGE: 2 Samuel 12:1-13**

**So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:**

**There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. <sup>3</sup>The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup>When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.**

**<sup>5</sup>David’s anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. <sup>6</sup>In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity.”**

**<sup>7</sup>Nathan told David, “You are the man.**

**This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says.”**

**I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. <sup>9</sup>Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.**

**<sup>11</sup>This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. <sup>12</sup>Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.**

**<sup>13</sup>David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”  
Nathan said to David, “The LORD himself has put away your sin.  
You will not die.**

**HYMN: # 654:1,4-7 “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”**

**♪ Jesus sinners does receive; oh, may all this saying ponder  
who in sin’s delusions live and from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to you with a penitent confession.  
Savior, show me mercy, too; grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners does receive.**

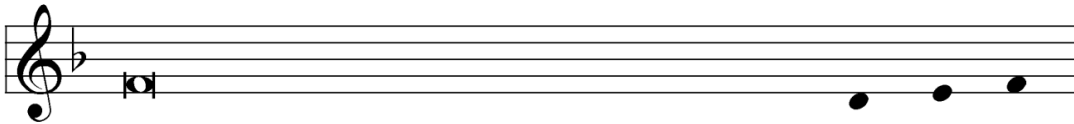
**Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,  
it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,  
for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted,  
Christ has purchased my release and my ev’ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.**



**Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.  
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.**

## OFFERING



**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M:** For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



**C: A - men.**

## **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: 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 be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

### 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.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### SONG OF SIMEON



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part  
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen  
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry  
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



**M:** The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C:** A - men.

### **CLOSING HYMN: # 783:2,5,7 “Abide with Me”**

♪ **Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**

**I need thy presence ev’ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me!**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**