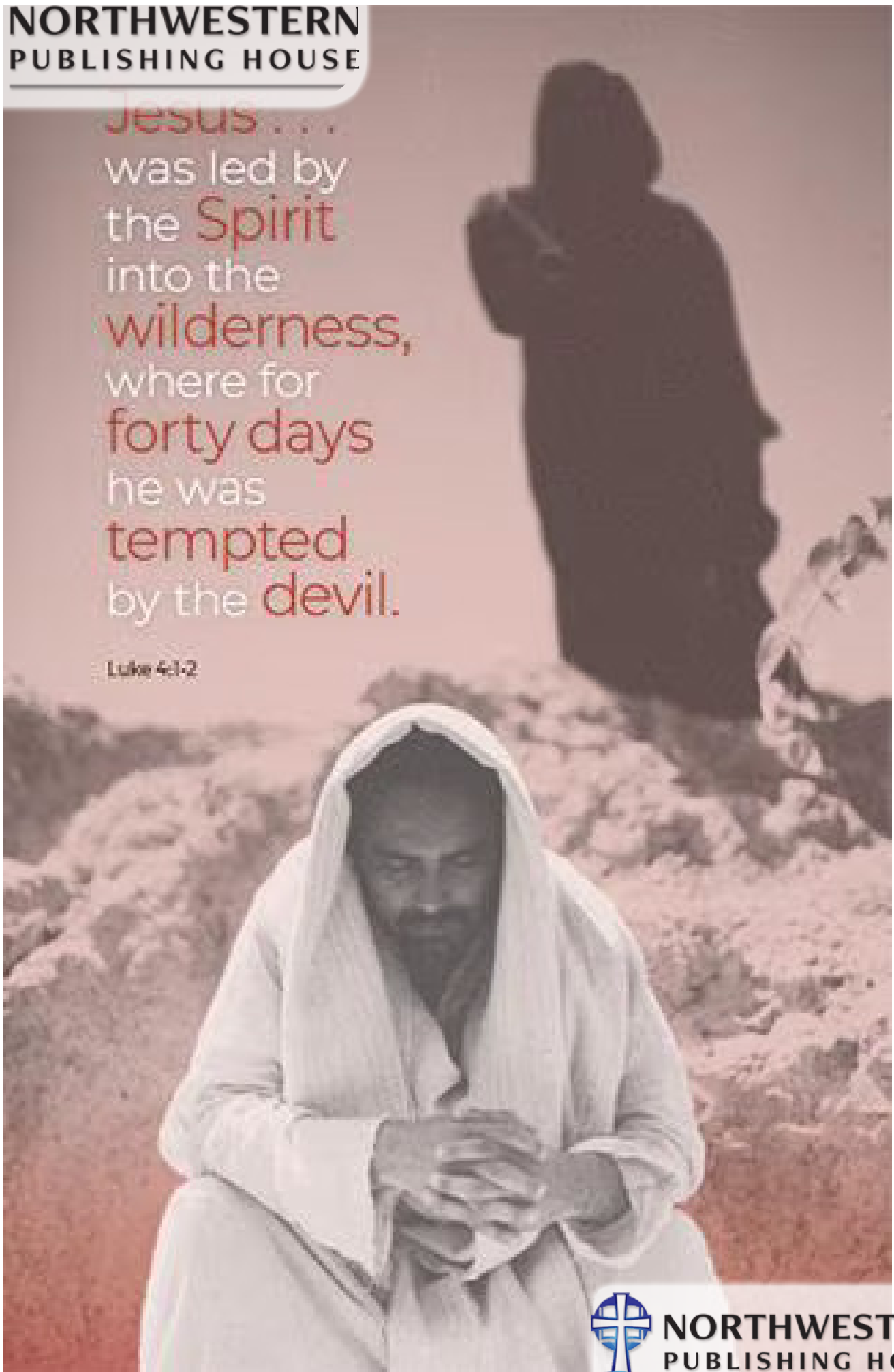




**NORTHWESTERN  
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Jesus ...  
was led by  
the Spirit  
into the  
wilderness,  
where for  
forty days  
he was  
tempted  
by the devil.

Luke 4:1-2



**NORTHWESTERN  
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Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, March 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.*

### First Sunday in LENT

**Theme of the day:** Each of us battles with temptations every day, and the results are too obvious to mention. Christ was no stranger to temptation, either. He battled, yet was without sin... for us and for our eternal righteousness. This message of victory gives us confidence as we journey through the wilderness of sin in true repentance.

## 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: # 819:1,3,4,7 “If God Himself Be for Me”**

♪ **If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;  
for when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above,  
what foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?**

**I build on this foundation, that Jesus and his blood  
alone are my salvation, my true, eternal good.  
Without him all that pleases is valueless on earth;  
the gifts I have from Jesus alone have priceless worth.**

**He canceled my offenses, delivered me from death;  
he is the Lord who cleanses my soul from sin through faith.  
In him I can be cheerful, courageous on my way;  
in him I am not fearful of God’s great Judgment Day.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad;  
my soul is filled with singing, sees only sunshine glad.  
The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King;  
the heav’n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.**

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: Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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: 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40, 45-49**

**<sup>4</sup>A challenger who represented the Philistines came out from the camp of the Philistines. He was named Goliath of Gath. He was nine feet, six inches tall. <sup>5</sup>He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scaled body armor, which was made of more than one hundred pounds of bronze. <sup>6</sup>He had bronze greaves on his shins and a bronze spear slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup>The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spearhead was made of fifteen pounds of iron. His shield bearer went out ahead of him.**

**<sup>8</sup>He would stand up and shout to the armies of Israel, "Why have you come out to line up in battle formation? I am a Philistine, and you are servants of Saul, aren't you? Choose a man to represent you, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup>If he is able to fight with me and kill me, we will be your servants. But if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our servants, and you will serve us."**

**<sup>10</sup>The Philistine would say, "I defy the ranks of Israel today! Give me a man, and we will fight each other!" <sup>11</sup>When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.**

**<sup>32</sup>David said to Saul, "Do not let anyone lose heart because of this Philistine! Your servant will go and fight him."**

**<sup>33</sup>But Saul said to David, "You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him, because you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior since he was a youth."**

**<sup>34</sup>David said to Saul, "Your servant has been taking care of his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, <sup>35</sup>I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. <sup>36</sup>Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God." <sup>37</sup>David added, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

**Saul said to David, "Go then! May the LORD be with you." <sup>38</sup>So Saul dressed David in his own gear. He placed a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in scaled body armor. <sup>39</sup>David strapped his sword over his gear. David tried to walk around in them, since he had never trained with this kind of equipment before.**

**David said to Saul, "I cannot go in these, because I have never trained with them." So David took them off.**

**40** Then David took his staff in his hand and picked five smooth stones out of the stream bed and put them into the pouch of his shepherd's bag. He took his sling in his hand and approached the Philistine.

**45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, **47** and all those gathered here will know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear, for the battle belongs to the LORD, and he will deliver you into our hand."

**48** Then, when the Philistine started advancing to attack David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

**49** David put his hand into his bag, took a stone from it, shot it from his sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 91

### *Refrain*



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

### *Psalm tone*



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High\*  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD,\*  
"He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

*Refrain*

**You will not fear the terror of the night,\*  
nor the arrow that flies by day.**

**If you make the Most High your dwelling,\*  
then no harm will befall you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.**

**For he will command his angels concerning you\*  
to guard you in all your ways;**

**they will lift you up in their hands,\*  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

**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*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4:1-13**

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. He did not eat anything during those days. When they came to an end, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The Devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”**

**<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ”**

**<sup>5</sup>The Devil led him up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>The Devil told him, “I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, because it has been entrusted to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. <sup>7</sup>So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.”**

**<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”**

<sup>9</sup>The Devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>because it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you.

<sup>11</sup>And,

they will lift you up with their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It says: ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’ ”

<sup>13</sup>When the Devil had finished every temptation, he left him until an opportune time.

**HYMN: # 404 “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”**

♪ Jesus, grant that balm and healing in your holy wounds I find,  
ev’ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within  
tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,  
show the peril, and from sinning  
keep me ere its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation  
fascinate my sinful mind,  
let me think about your passion, and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,  
saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”  
that the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices with the broad and easy road,  
with seductive, sinful vices, let me weigh the awful load  
you were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure,  
mastering each wild temptation,  
calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev’ry wound that pains or grieves me  
by your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
when I’m weak, your cross revives me,  
granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, your comfort renders sweet ev’ry bitter cup I meet;  
for your all-atoning passion has procured my soul’s salvation.



**O my God, my rock and tower,  
grant that in your death I trust,  
knowing death has lost his power  
since you crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let your agony ever help and comfort me;  
when I die be my protection, light and life and resurrection.**

### **SERMON: Hebrews 4:14-16**

**<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **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: # 431 “Oh Perfect Life of Love”**

**♪ O perfect life of love! All, all is finished now,  
all that he left his throne above to do for us below.**

**No work is left undone of all the Father willed;  
his toil, his sorrows, one by one, the Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;  
all forms of human grief and care  
have pierced that tender heart.**

**And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sinless soul  
our sins in all their guilt were laid  
that he might make us whole.**

**In perfect love he dies; for me he dies, for me!  
O all-atoning Sacrifice, you died to make me free!**

**In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,  
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,  
your merits, not my own.**

**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: # 839 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”**

♪ **Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure:  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law’s demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress,  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Degners.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Terry Oberg's brother Carp, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, Joe Wilkinson, and Claire Oberg.

## **THIS WEEK**

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

**Wednesday** **Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday**    **ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday**      **Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
                    **Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.**

## **COMING UP**

**Clean-up/Work Day: Saturday, April 12, 9:00-12:00**

**Holy Week:**

**Passion Sunday - April 13, 10:00 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday - April 18, 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday - April 20, 10:00 a.m.**