



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



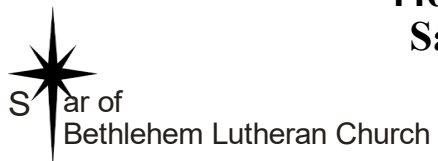
**Our citizenship  
is in heaven.**

*And we eagerly await a Savior from there,*

**the Lord Jesus Christ.....**



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

## Worship Service

*Sunday, March 16, 2025 10:00 a.m.*

## Second Sunday in LENT

**Theme of the day:** The Son of God, full of grace and truth, came into our world to rescue us from slavery to sin and the devil. Through his life, sufferings, and death, he has set us free. Now we live in the freedom and light of the truth — the truth of salvation only by God's grace and only through the work of Jesus Christ.

## 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: # 867 “Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near”**

♪ **Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near,  
your Savior's gracious promise hear;  
his faithful Word you can believe,  
that as your days your strength shall be.**

**Your faith is weak, your foes are strong,  
and if the conflict should be long,  
the Lord will make the tempter flee,  
that as your days your strength shall be.  
So, sing with joy, afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

**Should persecution rage and flame,  
still trust in your Redeemer's name.  
In fiery trials you shall see  
that as your days your strength shall be.  
So, sing with joy, afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**When called to bear your weighty cross,  
or sore affliction, pain, or loss,  
or deep distress, or poverty,  
still as your days your strength shall be  
So, sing with joy, afflicted one;  
the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!  
God shall supply all that you need;  
yes, as your days your strength shall be.**

**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: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: ♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
Almighty God, merciful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.**

**You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;  
you make us pure and holy in your sight.  
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Father known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.  
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 LESSION: Jeremiah 26:8-15**

**<sup>8</sup>When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! <sup>9</sup>Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?” All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.**

**<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king’s house to the House of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD’s house.**


**<sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your own ears.”**

**<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now reform your ways and your actions, and obey the LORD your God.**

Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. <sup>15</sup>But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”


**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 42-43**

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



\*

As the deer pants for streams of water,\*  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.\*  
Where can I go and meet with God?

Why are you downcast, O my soul?\*  
Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,\*  
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

*Refrain*

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;\*  
let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.\*  
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

**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 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>In that very hour, some Pharisees came to him and said,  
“Leave, and go away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

<sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go tell that fox, ‘Look, I am going to drive  
out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third  
day I will reach my goal. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way to-  
day and tomorrow and the next day, because it cannot be that a  
prophet would be killed outside Jerusalem!’”

<sup>34</sup>“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and  
stones those sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your  
children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but  
you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>Look, your house is left to you desolate. I  
tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you will say,  
‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

**HYMN: # 803 “Day by Day”**

♪ Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav’nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I’ll find eternal rest.

**Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.**

#### **MESSAGE: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

**<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you.**

**<sup>18</sup>To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping.**

**<sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things.**

**<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.**

**4 So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way keep standing firm in the Lord, my dear friends.**

#### **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**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy king-  
dom 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.**

## **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. 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.

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.**

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 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.**

**HYMN: # 817 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”**

 **Lord, thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray thee, ne'er from me depart,  
with tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share;  
yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
if thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
my trust in thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
forsake me not! I trust thy Word.**

**Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich bounty gave  
my body, soul, and all I have in this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place may glorify thy lavish grace  
and help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile; let Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
to bear my cross and follow thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
in death thy comfort still afford.**

**Lord, let at last thine angels come,  
to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home  
that I may die unfearing;  
and in its narrow chamber keep  
my body safe in peaceful sleep until thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me  
that these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, thy glorious face,  
my Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
and I will praise thee without end.**

**THANKSGIVING - HYMN # 953, verses 1,4,5**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.**

**You are King of glory, Christ, Son of God, yet born of Mary,  
for us sinners sacrificed, on the cross our sins did carry;  
first to break the bars of death,  
you have opened heav'n to faith.**

**Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
though in essence only one, undivided God we claim you,  
and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.**

**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: # 853 “I’m But a Stranger Here”

♪ I’m but a stranger here, heav’n is my home;  
earth is a desert drear, heav’n is my home;  
danger and sorrow stand round me on ev’ry hand;  
heav’n is my fatherland, heav’n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, heav’n is my home;  
short is my pilgrimage, heav’n is my home;  
and time’s wild, wintry blast soon shall be overpast;  
I shall reach home at last, heav’n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, heav’n is my home;  
whate’er my earthly lot, heav’n is my home;  
and I shall surely stand there at my Lord’s right hand;  
heav’n is my fatherland, heav’n is my home.



## **Christian Questions**

prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- 2. How do you know this?**  
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins?**  
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?**  
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.  
See Romans 6:21, 23.
- 5. Do you hope to be saved?** Yes, that is my hope.
- 6. In whom then do you trust?** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7. Who is Christ?** The Son of God, true God and man.
- 8. How many Gods are there?**  
Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?**  
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- 10. Did the Father also die for you?**  
He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- 11. How do you know this?**  
From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- 12. What are the words of institution?**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- 13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?** Yes, I believe it.
- 14. What convinces you to believe this?**  
The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

**15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?**

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?**

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious.

Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

**17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?**

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

**18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?**

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

**19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?**

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

**20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?**

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by Derek Ehinger on the occasion of his birthday.

**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, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, and Claire Oberg.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday**     **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, 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.**