



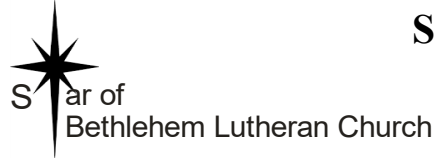
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“UNLESS
YOU
REPENT,
YOU TOO
WILL ALL
PERISH.”

LUKE 13:35



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, March 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in LENT

Theme of the day: At its heart, our Lenten journey must be one of Spirit-wrought repentance. Here is the Lenten invitation: turn from sin fully confident of the Lord's deliverance.

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: # 406 “In the Hour of Trial”

♪ **In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me
lest by base denial I unworthy be.
When you see me waver, with a look recall,
nor for fear or favor ever let me fall.**

**With forbidden pleasures should this vain world charm
or its tempting treasures spread to work me harm,
bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane
or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.**

**Should your mercy send me sorrow, toil, and woe,
or should pain attend me on my path below,
grant that I may never fail your cross to view;
grant that I may ever cast my care on you.**

Please stand for last verse:

**When my life is ending, though in grief or pain,
when my body changes back to dust again,
on your truth relying, through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying, to eternal life.**

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: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with repentant hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; 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: Exodus 3:1-15

Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³So he said, “I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!”

Moses said, “I am here.”

⁵The LORD said, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

⁶He then said, “I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹Now indeed, the Israelites’ cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹²So he said, “I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.”

¹³But Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?”

¹⁴So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

¹⁵God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

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 13:1-9

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

⁶He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’ ⁸But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’ ”

HYMN: # 712 “Delay Not! Delay Not”

♪ **Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!**
The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded, the Savior is here;
redemption is purchased, God’s promise is true.

Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
for mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.

Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
and leave you in darkness to finish your race,
to sink in the gloom of eternity’s night.

Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
the love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened—how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea,² and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ!⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did.⁷ Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.”⁸ And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell.⁹ Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents.¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

¹²So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall.¹³ No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

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: # 833 “I Run to Christ”

**♪ I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a refuge sure.
“Believe in me,” his voice I hear;
his words and wounds secure.
I run to Christ when torn by grief and find abundant peace.
“I too had tears,” he gently speaks; thus joy and sorrow meet.**

**I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul refreshed.
“Come unto me,” he calls thro’ strife; fatigue gives way to rest.
I run to Christ when vexed by hell and find a mighty arm.
“The devil flees,” the Scriptures tell;
he roars but cannot harm.**

**I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure escape.
“Deliver me,” I cry to him; temptation yields to grace.
I run to Christ when plagued by shame
and find my one defense.
“I bore God’s wrath,” he pleads my case —
my advocate and friend.**

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: # 923 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

♪ **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell’s destruction,
land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by Shayleen in celebration of Evelyn's 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.

