



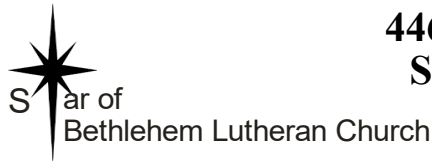
**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

I consider everything  
a loss because of the  
**surpassing worth**  
**of knowing Christ...**  
I consider them garbage,  
that I may gain Christ...

*Philippians 3:8*



**NORTHWESTERN**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, April 6, 2025 10:00 a.m.*

### Fifth Sunday in LENT

**Theme of the day:** On our journey to the cross and tomb: we have seen our Savior's battle waged against temptation; we have found confidence in his resolution to carry out the Father's plan; we have turned to him at his invitation to draw near with repentant hearts; we have rejoiced in his loving and forgiving embrace. In these last hours before Holy Week, we put our past ways behind us and strive for that for which Christ has laid hold of us.

## 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: # 407 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

♪ **When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God.  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a tribute far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

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, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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 LESSON: Isaiah 43:16-21

- <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD says, who makes a road through the sea  
and a path through mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who brings out the chariot and the horses,  
the army and the strong warrior.  
They will all lie down together. They will not get up.  
They are extinguished. Like a wick they go out.  
<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things.  
Do not keep thinking about ancient things.  
<sup>19</sup>Watch, I am about to do a new thing.  
Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it?  
Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness.  
In the wasteland I will make rivers.  
<sup>20</sup>The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,  
because I am providing water in the wilderness,  
rivers in a parched wasteland,  
water for my chosen people to drink.  
<sup>21</sup>This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise.


## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 73

### *Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

### *Psalm tone*



\*

I am always with you, O LORD;\*  
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,\*  
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?\*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,\*  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

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 20:9-19**

<sup>9</sup>He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. <sup>10</sup>When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup>The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup>He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. <sup>13</sup>The owner of the vineyard said, ‘What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.’

<sup>14</sup>“But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup>They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup>He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others.”

When they heard this, they said, “May it never be!”

<sup>17</sup>But he looked at them and said, “Then what about this that is written:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?

<sup>18</sup>“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls.”

<sup>19</sup>That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

**HYMN: # 563 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”**

♪ My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare to make no other claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev’ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood  
support me in the raging flood;  
when ev’ry earthly prop gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before his throne.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

## **SERMON: Philippians 3:4-14**

**If anyone else thinks that he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>in regard to zeal, persecuting the church; in regard to the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.**

**<sup>7</sup>But, whatever things were a profit for me, these things I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even more than that, I consider everything to be a loss because of what is worth far more: knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake, I have lost all things and consider them rubbish, so that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, which comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God by faith. <sup>10</sup>I do this so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, <sup>11</sup>in the hope that in some way I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead.**

**<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

## **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**

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**C: We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

**C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

**C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.**

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 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.

### **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: # 573 “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”**

♪ Jesus, your blood and righteousness  
my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
with joy shall I lift up my head.

**Bold shall I stand in that great day;  
who can a word against me say?  
Fully absolved through these I am  
from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe your precious blood,  
which at the very throne of God  
pleads for the captives’ liberty,  
was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more  
than sands upon the ocean shore,  
you have for all a ransom paid,  
for all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise  
to claim my mansion in the skies,  
this then shall be my only plea:  
Jesus has lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!  
Your boundless mercy has for me,  
for me and all your hands have made,  
an everlasting ransom paid.**

**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.

**HYMN:** # 861:1,3 “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

♪ **Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,  
you are her one foundation;  
in you she trusts, before you bows, and waits for your salvation.  
Built on this rock secure, your Church shall endure  
though all the world decay and all things pass away.  
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!**

**Help us to serve you evermore with hearts both pure and lowly;  
and may your Word, that light divine, shine on in splendor holy  
that we repentance show, in faith ever grow;  
the pow’r of sin destroy and evils that annoy.  
O make us faithful Christians.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Circuit Meeting</b> ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>WORK DAY, 9:00 a.m.—noon</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Passion Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

## **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.

## **COMING UP**

### **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.**