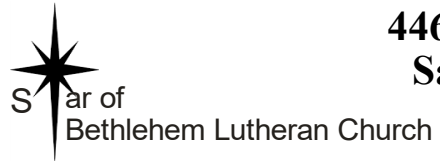


The Sixth Sunday in LENT





4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, April 13, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday in LENT — PASSION SUNDAY

Theme of the day: Lutherans have a long history of remembering the Savior's Passion in midweek services during the season of Lent. The more common practice, in history and in the experience of the wider church, is to read the Passion history on the first Sunday of Holy Week, as we are doing today...

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.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Dear friends in Christ: Today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Jesus entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that culminated at the empty tomb and follow him with sincere faith. United with him by baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

OPENING HYMN: # 522:1,3,4 “Beautiful Savior”

♪ **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
now and forevermore be thine!**

PASSION SUNDAY OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 42:1-4

**Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight.
I am placing my Spirit on him.
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.
²He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice.
He will not make his voice heard in the street.
³A bent reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.
⁴He will not burn out, and he will not be broken
until he establishes justice on the earth.
The coastlands will wait for his law.**

HYMN: # 514 “You Are the Way; through You Alone”

♪ **You are the way; thro’ you alone
can we the Father find;
in you, O Christ, has God revealed
his heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb
proclaims your conqu’ring arm,
and those who put their trust in you
nor death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win
whose joys eternal flow.**

PASSION SUNDAY EPISTLE: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have poured out upon us your never-ending love by giving your Son Jesus Christ into death for us. He emptied himself and became obedient even to the death of the cross. Give us grace to share in his suffering and death so that we may be united with him in his resurrection. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. (*Hebrews 12:2*)

C: The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

(*John 12:23*)

PASSION SUNDAY GOSPEL: Luke 22:1-23:56

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(*Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; John 11:45-57*)

22 The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. ²The chief priests and the experts in the law were trying to find some way to put Jesus to death, because they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. ⁵They were glad and agreed to give him money. ⁶He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

Jesus Celebrates the Passover

(*Matthew 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17*)

⁷The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it.”

⁹They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

¹⁰He told them, “Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. ¹¹Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” ¹²He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there.”

¹³They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. ¹⁵He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

The Lord's Supper

(Matthew 26:26–30; Mark 14:22–26; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25)

¹⁹He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out for you.

One Will Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:21–25; Mark 14:18–21; John 13:21–30)

²¹“But look, the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²²The Son of Man is going to go as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”

²³They began to discuss with one another which of them it was who was going to do this.

HYMN: # 419:2,3 “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

♪ **Tell how, when at length the fullness
of th’ appointed time was come,
he, the Word, was born of woman,
left for us his Father’s home,
blazed the path of true obedience,
shone as light amidst the gloom.**

**Thus, with thirty years accomplished,
he went forth from Nazareth,
destined, dedicated, willing, did his work and met his death;
like a lamb he humbly yielded on the cross his dying breath.**

Who Is Greatest?

²⁴A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. ²⁶But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have remained with me in my trials.

²⁹I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

(Matthew 26:31–35; Mark 14:27–31; John 13:36–38)

³¹The Lord said, “Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

³³He said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!”

³⁴But Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me.”

³⁵He said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler’s bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they said.

³⁶Then he told them, “But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler’s bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘He was counted with transgressors.’ Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment.”

³⁸They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He said to them, “That is enough.”

Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42)

³⁹Jesus left and went out to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom. His disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he told them, “Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴¹He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow. ⁴⁶He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and keep praying so that you may not enter into temptation.”

HYMN: #425:1,2 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**♪ Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall,
oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, pain, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.**

Jesus’ Arrest

(Matthew 26:47–56; Mark 14:43–52; John 18:1–14)

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd appeared, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him. ⁵²Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as you would against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour—when darkness rules.”

⁵⁴Then they seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest’s house.

Peter Denies Jesus

(Matthew 26:69–75; Mark 14:66–72; John 18:15–18, 25–27)

Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw him sitting near the light. She looked closely at him and said, “This man also was with him.”

⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”

⁵⁸After a little while someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them!”

But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

⁵⁹After about one hour had passed, someone else was firmly insisting, “Truly this man was with him too, because he is a Galilean!”

⁶⁰But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times.” ⁶²He went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus in custody mocked him while they were beating him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

HYMN: # 422:2.3 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

♪ **This Lamb is Christ, the soul’s great friend,
the Lamb of God, our Savior;
him God the Father chose to send to gain for us his favor.
“Go forth, my Son,” the Father said,
“and free my children from their dread
of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
but by your passion they will share the fruit of your salvation.”**

**“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I’ll bear what you command me.
My will conforms to your decree;
I’ll do what you have asked me.”
O wondrous Love, what have you done!
The Father offers up his Son, desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong you are to save!
You make his bed within the grave
who built the earth’s foundation.**

Jewish Court

⁶⁶As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both the chief priests and experts in the law. They brought him into their Sanhedrin and said, ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ, tell us.”

But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. ⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

⁷⁰They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

⁷¹Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!”

Jesus’ Trial in Pilate’s Court

(Matthew 27:11–14; Mark 15:1–5; John 18:28–38)

23 The whole group of them got up and brought him before Pilate.

²They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

³Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

⁴Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. ⁹He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him.

¹⁵Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. ¹⁶So I will have him flogged and release him.”

Barabbas or Jesus?

(Matthew 27:15–26; Mark 15:6–15; John 18:39–40)

¹⁷Pilate needed to release one prisoner to them at the Festival. ¹⁸But they all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!”

¹⁹Barabbas had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder.

²⁰Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus.

²¹But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

²²He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” ²³But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.

²⁴So Pilate decided that what they demanded would be done. ²⁵He released the one they had asked for, who had been thrown in prison for rebellion and murder, but he handed Jesus over to their will.

The Crucifixion

(Matthew 27:31–44; Mark 15:20–32; John 19:16–27)

²⁶As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”

³²Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

³³When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

They cast lots to divide his garments among them. ³⁵The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!”

³⁶The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, ³⁷saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸There was also an inscription written above him: “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”

⁴³Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus’ Death

(Matthew 27:45–56; Mark 15:33–41; John 19:28–37)

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous.” ⁴⁸When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. ⁴⁹All those who knew Jesus, and the women who followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

HYMN: # 410:1-3 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

**♪ Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sov’ reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide
and shut its glories in
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creatures’ sin.**

Jesus' Burial

(Matthew 27:57–61; Mark 15:42–47; John 19:38–42)

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man. ⁵¹He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³He took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb that was cut out of rock, where no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how his body was laid there. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

M: Let us go forth in peace,

C: In the name of the Lord.

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: #425:3 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

♪ **Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

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.

HYMN: # 429:4,5 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

♪ **My burden in your passion,
Lord, you have borne for me,
for it was my transgression,
my shame, on Calvary.
I cast me down before you;
wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy, I implore you;
Redeemer, spurn me not!**

**What language shall I borrow
to thank you, dearest Friend,
for this, your dying sorrow,
your pity without end?
O make me yours forever,
and keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for you.**

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.

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by Ilene Trevarrow in honor of her granddaughters.

EASTER BRUNCHEON: After our Easter worship next Sunday we will be joining in a fellowship meal. Ham is being provided for all, so if you wouldn't mind bringing supporting side dishes and desserts, we should end up with a very nice spread.

THIS WEEK

Thursday **Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7 p.m.**
Friday **Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 p.m.**
Sunday **Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**
 Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 Brunch and Egg Hunt - after service



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