

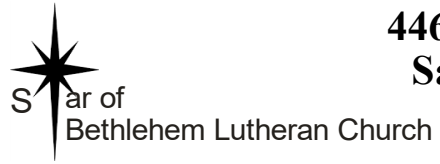


**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

HE RISEN!



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, April 5, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD EASTER DAY

Theme of the day: On this holiest of days, we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Connected by grace, through faith, to our risen Lord, we rejoice in the victory of the resurrection and in full confidence of our own resurrection from the dead.

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.

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

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

Congregation: Amen.

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN: # 445 “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

♪ He’s risen, he’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
he opened death’s prison, the incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
and earth, sea, and mountain, the praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
the Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
for Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
and death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
he lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.

Please stand for last verse:

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
with Father and Spirit he ever shall reign.

M: We pray. In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden: purify our hearts through your Holy Spirit so that we may love you as you deserve and be worthy of magnifying your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Jesus commanded us: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself.” If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence to reflect on the Word of God and to examine ourselves.

M: Let us confess our sins against God and against our neighbors:

C: God of mercy, we confess that we have been enslaved by sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and action, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By the love of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and direct us by your Holy Spirit, so that your will may be our joy and we may walk in your ways forever, to the glory of your name. Amen.

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in his great mercy has given us his Son. By his life and death, God cleansed us from all sin. By his resurrection we have eternal life as Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.” For this reason, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are a dearly loved child of God. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord!

HYMN: # 606 (verses 1,2) “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

♪ **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Brothers, I am going to call your attention to the gospel that I preached to you. You received it, and you took your stand on it. ²You are also being saved by that gospel that was expressed in the words I preached to you, if you keep your hold on it—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. ⁶After that he appeared to over five hundred brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, he appeared also to me, the stillborn child, so to speak. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted God's church. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not ineffective. On the contrary, I worked more than all of them (and yet it wasn't my doing, but it was the grace of God, which was with me, that did it). ¹¹So whether it is I or they, that is what we preach, and that is what you believed.**

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 118

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re-
joice and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

Psalm tone

The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

**The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.**

**The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!**

**I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Refrain

**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.**

**The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**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***

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the day the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

HYMN: # 438:1,2 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

♪ Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Al—le-lu-ia!
our triumphant holy day, Al—le-lu-ia!
who did once upon the cross, Al—le-lu-ia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Al—le-lu-ia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al—le-lu-ia!
unto Christ, our heav’nly King, Al—le-lu-ia!
who endured the cross and grave, Al—le-lu-ia!
sinners to redeem and save. Al—le-lu-ia!

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”

⁸They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

HYMN: # 450 “The Day of Resurrection”

♪ **The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light
and, list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin,
let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

SERMON: Zechariah 8:19-23

¹⁹**This is what the LORD of Armies says. The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months will become times of rejoicing, joy, and gladness for the house of Judah. Therefore, all of you are to love truth and peace.**

²⁰**This is what the LORD of Armies says. People will still come as the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹Then the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, "Let us go immediately to plead for the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of Armies. I myself will go." ²²Then many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of Armies in Jerusalem and to plead for the favor of the LORD.**

²³**This is what the LORD of Armies says. In those days, ten men from among the speakers of every language of the nations will take firm hold of the hem of a Jew's garment and say, "Let us go along with you, because we have heard that God is with you."**

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

(The members of Star of Bethlehem have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors, you need not feel obligated to participate in this offering unless you so desire.)

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.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you. (spoken)

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 raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.

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 VERSES DURING COMMUNION: # 675
“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

♪ **At the Lamb’s high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast —
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured,
death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel’s hosts triumphant go
thro’ the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky,
hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

♪ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.**

Tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

**He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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: # 441:1,2,5,8 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

♪ **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

he lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;

he lives eternally to save;

he lives all glorious in the sky;

he lives exalted there on high.

**He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: little Elias, Dennis Douglas, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, and Kathie Stillwater.

EASTER BRUNCH All are invited to remain with us for the Easter Brunch (and egg hunt) after our worship service.

EASTER FLOWERS Please take them home with you today.

THIS WEEK

Thursday Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.

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

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.

I know...



...that my Redeemer lives.