



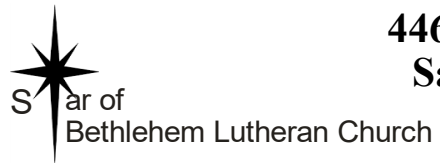
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

“Your
FATHER
has been
pleased to
give you the
Kingdom.”

LUKE 12:32



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, September 1, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: The Christian life is a constant looking ahead. What the eyes cannot see is what the heart of faith accepts when promised by God. Abraham serves as a wonderful Old Testament example and he is praised for it in the New Testament.

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.

WE ENTER THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

OPENING HYMN: # 349 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

♪ Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.

In thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev’ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, tho’ sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God’s great pow’r Guards ev’ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore him, Silent bow before him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure;
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss Or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me Since he deigns to love me.

Please stand for last verse:

Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate’er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

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*)

Confession of Sins

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 glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.**

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through 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: Genesis 15:1–6

After these events the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

²Abram said, “LORD God what can you give me, since I remain childless, and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³Abram also said, “Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant born in my house will be my heir.”

⁴Just then, the word of the LORD came to him. God said, “This man will not be your heir, but instead one who will come out of your own body will be your heir.”

⁵The LORD then brought him outside and said, “Now look toward the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” He said to Abram, “This is what your descendants will be like.”

⁶Abram believed in the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 33

Refrain



Psalm tone



Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

**But the plans of the LORD stand firm foreever,*
the purposes of his heart through all generations.**

**The LORD loves righteousness and justice;*
the earth is full of his unfailing love.**

**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. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1)

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

¹Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced
about things we do not see. ²For by this faith the ancients were
commended in Scripture.

³By faith we know that the universe was created by God's word,
so that what is seen did not come from visible things.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place
that he was going to receive as an inheritance, and he left without
knowing where he was going.

⁹By faith he lived as a stranger in the Promised Land, as if it
did not belong to him, dwelling in tents along with Isaac and Jacob,
who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹By faith Abraham also received the ability to conceive children, even though Sarah herself was barren and he was past the normal age, because he considered him faithful who made the promise.

¹²And so from one man, and he as good as dead, descendants were born as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand along the seashore.

¹³One by one, all of these died in faith, without having received the things that were promised, but they saw and welcomed them from a distance. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴Indeed, people who say things like that make it clear that they are looking for a land of their own.

¹⁵And if they were remembering the land they had come from, they would have had an opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better land—a heavenly one. For that reason, God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he prepared a city for them.

Hymn: # 402 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

♪ My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Sermon: Luke 12:32–40

³²Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not become old, a treasure in the heavens that will not fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. ³⁹But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

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

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! He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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 Verses during Communion: Hymn # 405

**♪ Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe,

That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain Can lean upon its God,**

**A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt,**

**That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile,
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown Nor Satan's arts beguile,**

**A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heav'nly ray Lights up the dying bed.**

**Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.**

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!**

Prayer of Thanks

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: # 422 “Jesus, Lead Us On”

**♪ Jesus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand To our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us,
For through many a woe To our home we go.**

**When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.**

**Jesus, still lead on Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly Leader, still direct us;
Still support, console, protect us
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by Terry and Chris on the occasion of their anniversary.

MEDITATIONS are on the ledge in the narthex.

PRAYERS Pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Albert Nunez, Judy Moore, Don (Turk) Oberg and his wife, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's' grand-daughter), Austin Barnard, Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, and Rylie Lopez.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	Elders, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. ESL, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.

NEW ESL SESSION, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., beginning September 3.

AREA REFORMATION SERVICE, November 3, 4:00 p.m.
It is Star of Bethlehem's turn to provide the luncheon.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Do not be afraid,



little flock.