



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

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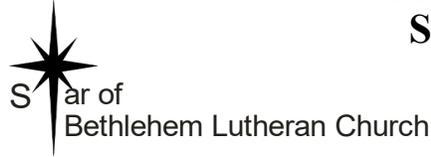
THOSE WHO  
**HUMBLE THEMSELVES**  
WILL BE

**EXALTED.”**

LUKE 14:11B



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

### Worship Service

*Sunday, September 22, 2019 10:00 a.m.*

### Fifteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** The Christian life is one of humility.

While the world around us stresses self-promotion, the Christian knows his only boast is in the Lord. Solomon and Christ emphasize the humbleness of being a child of God, and the writer to the Hebrews reminds us to look beyond ourselves in love and sympathy toward others.

### 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.

## The Service of the Word

**OPENING HYMN: # 618 “Before the Lord We Bow”**

♪ **Before the Lord we bow, The God who reigns above  
And rules the world below In boundless pow’r and love.  
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise  
Our hearts we raise To heav’n’s high King.**

**The nation you have blessed May well your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.  
For this fair land, For this bright day  
Our thanks we pay—Gifts of your hand.**

**May ev’ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,  
Shine in your Word’s pure light And its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev’ry tongue Be tuned to praise  
And join to raise A grateful song!**

**Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own.  
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship him alone.  
Cast down your pride! Your sin deplore  
And bow before The Crucified!**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**And when in pow’r he comes, Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, And, joyful, sing  
To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!**

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**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties.

**C:** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Proverbs 25:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Do not honor yourself in a king's presence.  
Do not stand in a place reserved for great people,  
<sup>7</sup>because it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than for you to be humiliated before a ruler  
whom your eyes have seen.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119a

#### *Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

#### *Psalm tone*



Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,\*  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes\*  
and seek him with all their heart.

You have laid down precepts\*  
that are to be fully obeyed.

*Refrain*

Oh, that my ways were steadfast\*  
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame\*  
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart\*  
as I learn your righteous laws.

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! Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will  
proclaim your great deeds. Alleluia. (Psalm 145)

C: **Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart.**  
**Alleluia.** (Jeremiah 15:16)

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 13:1–8**

Continue to show brotherly love. <sup>2</sup>Do not fail to show love to strangers, for by doing this some have welcomed angels without realizing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those in prison, as if you were fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were also suffering bodily.

<sup>4</sup>Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

**<sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said:**

**I will never leave you,  
and I will never forsake you.**

**<sup>6</sup>So then we say with confidence:**

**The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.**

**What will man do to me?**

**<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**HYMN: # 623 “God the Father, Son, and Spirit”**

**♪ God the Father, Son, and Spirit, Ever-blessed Trinity,  
Humbly now our thanks we offer, All unworthy though we be.  
Freely you have showered blessings  
Countless as the ocean’s sands,  
Blessings rich and overflowing On the labors of our hands.**

**Once you brought our fathers’ footsteps  
To this land we hold so dear,  
Lengthening the cords and curtains Of their habitation here,  
Strengthening your temple’s pillars  
As you have from age to age,  
Giving us, their sons and daughters, An abiding heritage.**

**Grant that we your Word may cherish And its purity retain.  
Lord, unless you are the builder, All our labor is in vain.  
Keep us from all pride and boasting, Vanity and foolish trust,  
Knowing that our work without you  
Soon will crumble into dust.**

**God of grace and love and blessing,  
Yours alone shall be the praise.  
Give us hearts to trust you truly,  
Hands to serve you all our days.  
Lord, bestow your future blessing  
Till we join the heav’nly host,  
There to praise and serve you ever,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## **SERMON: Luke 14:1, 7–14**

**One Sabbath day, when Jesus went into the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat bread, they were watching him closely.**

**<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, he told the invited guests a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor, or perhaps someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him. <sup>9</sup>The one who invited both of you may come and tell you, ‘Give this man your place.’ Then you will begin, with shame, to take the lowest place.**

**<sup>10</sup>“But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will tell you, ‘Friend, move up to a higher place.’ Then you will have honor in the presence of all who are reclining at the table with you.**

**<sup>11</sup>“Yes, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”**

**<sup>12</sup>He also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, so that perhaps they may also return the favor and pay you back.**

**<sup>13</sup>“But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”**

## **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: # 529 “Built on the Rock”**

**♪ Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the soul distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth his temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav’n above Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies his temple.**

**We are God’s house of living stones, Built for his own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two his name to tell,  
Yet he would deign with us to dwell  
With all his grace and his favor.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God did receive us.  
Th’ altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice  
And what the sacrament gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.**

**Grant then, O God, your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ his message is bringing:  
“I know my own; my own know me.  
You, not the world, my face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you always.”**

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**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: “By Faith, We See the Hand of God”

**“By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation’s grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight**

**By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God’s own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign**

**Chorus: We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul’s reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight**

**By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave**

**By faith the church was called to go  
In the power of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In every corner of the earth**

**Chorus: We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight ”**

**By faith this mountain shall be moved  
And the power of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name.**

**Chorus: We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight ”**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by  
Morgan & Steve Schlossin 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**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

**AREA REFORMATION SERVICE**, November 3, 4:00 p.m.  
It is Star of Bethlehem's turn to provide the luncheon.  
**Special Mission Offering** for this season is the Central Africa  
Medical Mission.

