

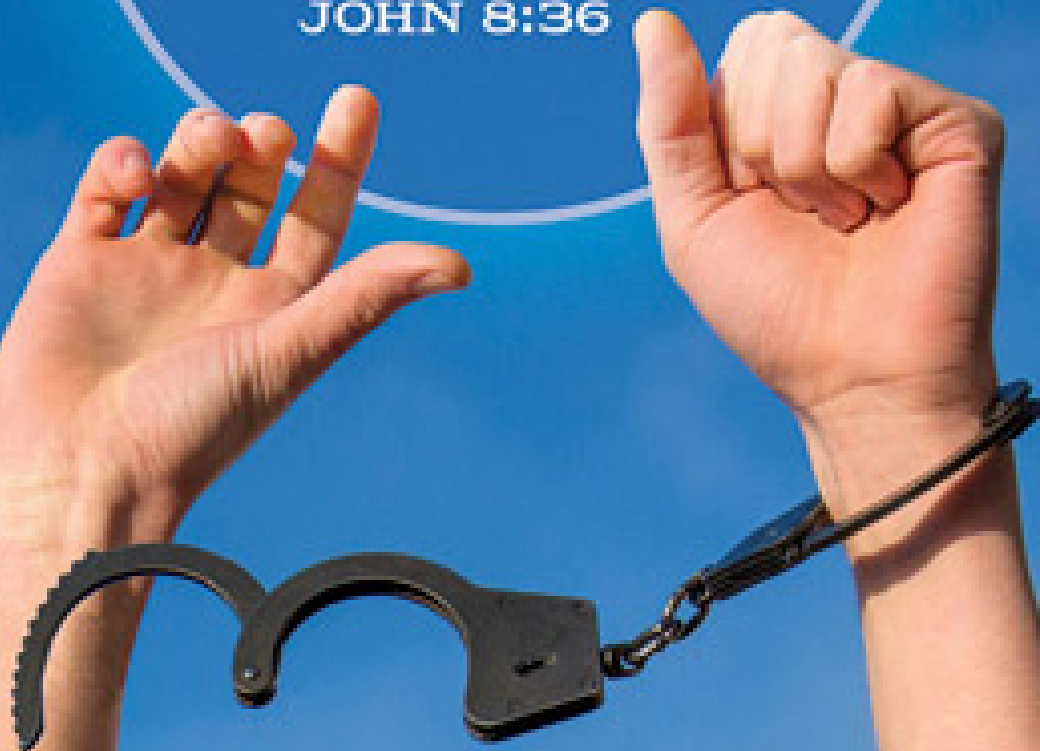


NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE
“IF THE SON
SETS YOU FREE,

YOU WILL
BE

*free
indeed.”*

JOHN 8:36



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Worship Service

Sunday, November 3, 2019 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of End Time **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Theme of the day: Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church emphasizes the true Church's unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. Jesus promised to pour out his Spirit on the Church that we might be God's mouthpiece even before kings. Today the Church prays that the Lord give us the strength to be faithful and the peace to know our lives are secure in his hands.

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

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

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: # 392 “Not Unto Us”

♪ **Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to your name be praise;
Not unto us but to your name all honor be giv’n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**Amazing grace—that chose us e’er the worlds were made;
Amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
Amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav’ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**

P: It was in Eden that Satan destroyed the relationship which existed between God and man, the crown of God’s creation. It was in Eden that this tragic cry first arose from the human heart:

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan’s power.

P: When the time was right, God acted in his great love. He sent his one and only Son into the world to do for his creatures what they could not do for themselves. Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again to renew the image we had lost in Eden. And the Holy Spirit founded the Church to carry that message of restoration and renewal into all the world.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
We shall not die but live and declare the praises of God.**

P: Satan was not finished trying to destroy mankind. He challenged the Church's faith and mission with his evil influence. God preserved his Church, often quietly, sometimes with only a whisper. But even in the depths of darkness, the light of grace flickered. In the fourth century, when Satan attacked the deity of Christ, the Church confessed:

C: 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.

P: In the fifth century, when the doctrine of the Trinity was attacked, the Church confessed:

C: Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

P: Through the centuries, the battle continued. Often Satan seemed to be the victor. The cry of God's people continued:

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan's power.

P: When the time was right, God acted in love once again. He raised up a man with weaknesses and failures to be his servant. God used that man to be a messenger of the everlasting Gospel. That man was Martin Luther. We do not praise Luther, but we praise God for choosing Martin Luther to be his instrument to restore to the Church the good news about Jesus Christ as our Savior.

C: Lord Jesus, because you were crushed for our iniquities and sins, we are declared righteous and holy.

P: For this forgiveness, grace and peace — let us praise the Lord!

♪ **Song: Glory Be to God the Father** (CW: #239)

**Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!**

**Glory be to him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,
Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!**

**Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory To the King of glory sing!**

**Glory, blessing, praise eternal!—
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!—
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on your Church your saving peace; 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. Alleluia! (Psalm 46:10)

C: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Alleluia! (*John 8:31,32*)

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



God is our refuge and strength,*
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam*
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;*
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the
earth.”

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

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Yes, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.**

**³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers,
when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of
Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine,
although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.**

**³³ But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the LORD.**

**I will put my law in their minds,
and I will write it on their hearts.**

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

**³⁴ No longer will each one teach his neighbor,
or each one teach his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,”
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD,
for I will forgive their guilt,
and I will remember their sins no more.**

♪ Hymn 200: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That has us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done;
Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, “Who is this?” Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there’s no other God;
He holds the field forever.**

THE GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

**³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain
in my word, you are really my disciples. ³² You will also know the
truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

³³ “We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

♪ Song: A Mighty Fortress is Our God (CW 200)

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will — Hate, steal, hurt, or kill —
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom’s ours forever!

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: Romans 3:21-28

²¹ But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³ because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶ He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle — by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸ For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

CONFESSION of FAITH (Formula of Concord, Article III)

It is the unanimous confession of our churches according to the Word of God and the content of the Augsburg Confession that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved solely by faith in Christ. We believe, teach and confess unanimously that Christ is our righteousness neither according to the divine nature alone nor according to the human nature alone. On the contrary, the entire Christ according to both natures is our righteousness solely in his obedience which as God and man he rendered to his heavenly Father into death itself. Thereby he won for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Accordingly we believe, teach and confess that our righteousness before God consists in this, that God forgives our sins purely by his grace, without any preceding, present or subsequent work, merit or worthiness and reckons to us the righteousness of Christ's obedience, on account of which righteousness we are accepted by God into grace and are regarded as righteous.

We believe, teach and confess that faith is the only means and instrument whereby we accept Christ and in Christ obtain the "righteousness which avails before God," and that for Christ's sake such faith is reckoned for righteousness.

We believe, teach and confess that this faith is not a mere knowledge of the stories about Christ, but the kind of gift of God by which in the Word of the Gospel we recognize Christ aright as our Redeemer and trust in him, so that solely because of his obedience, by grace, we have forgiveness of sins, are regarded as holy and righteous by God the Father, and shall be saved eternally.

We believe, teach and confess that, although the genuinely believing and truly regenerated persons retain much weakness and many shortcomings down to their graves, they still have no reason to doubt either the righteousness that is reckoned to them through faith or the salvation of their souls, but they must regard it as certain for Christ's sake. We believe, teach and confess that we are to preserve the pure doctrine concerning righteousness of faith before God. Amen.

♪ Hymn # 293 God's Word is our Great Heritage

**God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.**

**Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.

P: Here we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children here on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

C: Thy kingdom come.

P: We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P: We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will, in life and in death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

C: Give us this day our daily bread.

P: We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for our needs.

C: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

P: We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

P: We pray here that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

C: But deliver us from evil.

P: And finally we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul, now and forever.

C: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts, Amen, trusting without any doubts that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

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 LORD’S SUPPER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: We lift up our hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.**

Distribution Hymn: # 541 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

**♪ Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide,
Nor let your Word, that heav’nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.**

**O God, how sin’s dread works abound!
Throughout the earth no rest is found,
And falsehood’s spirit wide has spread,
And error boldly rears its head.**

**In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Your holy Word and sacrament.**

**Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well your Word of grace,
And spread its truth in ev’ry place.**

**Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.**

**The cause is yours, the glory, too,
So hear us, Lord, and keep us true.
Your Word alone is our defense,
The Church’s glorious confidence.**

**Oh, grant that in your holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey's ending here,
Receive us into glory there.**

P: We pray: We thank you, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept us from all harm and danger. Keep us this day also from sin and every evil, that all our doings and life may please you. Into your hands, we commend our bodies and souls and all things. Let your holy angel be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

C: Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING

P: 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.

CLOSING HYMN: # 203 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

**♪ Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
And to destroy what he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by Ilene Trevarrow in memory of Stephen.

PRAYERS Pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Albert Nunez, Judy Moore, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's grand-daughter), Austin Barnard, Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Molly Webb, Jim Moore (Jr.) and family, and Bob Ward.

THIS WEEK

Monday	Circuit - Torrance
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, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.
	Worship, 10:00 a.m.

AREA REFORMATION SERVICE, 4:00 p.m. St. Paul's First, 5244 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood.

Special Mission Offering for this season is the Central Africa Medical Mission.

COMING UP

Pot Luck Lunch Fellowship - Sunday, November 17
Thanksgiving Day Service, November 28, 10:00 a.m.
Soup Supper & Advent Worship - Wednesday, Dec. 4



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.