



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



“A farmer went out
to sow his seed...
whoever has ears,
let them hear.”

MATTHEW 13:3, 9



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PUBLISHING HOUSE



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Worship Service

Sunday, July 26, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after PENTECOST



Theme of the day: By means of his holy Word, God sows faith in our hearts and strengthens it. May we always gladly listen to this saving Word!

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.

OPENING HYMN: # 735 “Speak, O Lord” (music on back page)

♪ **Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take you truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on your promises,
And by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

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*)

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.

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.

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 your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:10,11

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return there
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and
cause it to sprout,
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty.
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 65

Refrain



The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



Praise awaits you, O God,*
you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;*
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

The streams of God are filled with water*
to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

**You crown the year with your bounty,*
and your carts overflow with abundance.**

**The grasslands of the desert overflow;*
the hills are clothed with gladness.**

**The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;*
they shout for joy and sing.**

**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. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14)

C: ♪Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ²A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³He told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away.

⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it.

⁸But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁸“So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²²The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

HYMN: # 420 “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

♪ God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He has a smiling face.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessing on your head.

SERMON: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

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: # 439 “Lord, Take my Hand and Lead Me”

♪ **Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.**

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: “By Faith we Se 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*

**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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers, on the occasion of Carl Jr.'s birthday.

PRAYERS Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's granddaughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Alice Taubman, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), and Helen Marten.

**Please remember to use every opportunity to invite others
to make use of our streaming services (starlutheran.org).**

**The seed that was sown on
the good ground...**



**... is the one who continues to
hear and understand the word.**

- Matthew 13:23



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To re -
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



ceive the food of your Ho - ly Word.
rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, That will



fash - ion us in your like - ness That the
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our
e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic
grace we'll stand on your pro - mis-es, And by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, as your



fill in us All your pur - pos-es for your
nev - er fail, Let their truth pre - vail o - ver
Church is built And you fill the earth with your



glo - ry.
un - be - lief.
glo - ry.