



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

# “TAKE COURAGE!

IT IS I. DON'T BE AFRAID.”

MATTHEW 14:27



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

## Twelfth Sunday after PENTECOST



**Theme of the day:** The promises of our Lord Jesus Christ comfort our distressed hearts, calm our doubts and fears, and strengthen us in the sure hope of life everlasting.

## 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: # 251 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

♪ **When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
When evening shadows fall, Then sounds my vesper call:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
God’s holy house of prayer Has none that can compare  
With “Jesus Christ be praised.”**

**Let all of humankind In this their concord find:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**Sing, sun and stars of space; Sing, all who see his face;  
Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!”  
God’s whole creation o’er, Today and evermore,  
Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!”**

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear that we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or de-

serve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ Amen.

### **FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 19:9-18**

<sup>9</sup>He came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD suddenly came to him, saying, “Why are you here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup>He said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life.”

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

<sup>12</sup>After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice.

<sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, “Why are you here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>He said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. <sup>18</sup>But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him.”

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 73

### *Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

### *Psalm tone*



\*

I am always with you, O LORD;\*  
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,\*  
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?\*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,\*  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

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. 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: Romans 9:1-5**

**I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying—my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit <sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and continuous pain in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I almost wish that I myself could be cursed and separated from Christ in place of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>those who are Israelites. Theirs are the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, came the Christ, who is God over all, eternally blessed. Amen.**

## **HYMN: # 433 “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”**

**♪ Jesus, Savior, pilot me  
Over life’s tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach’rous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from thee:  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**As a mother stills her child,  
Thou canst hush the ocean wild.  
Boist’rous waves obey thy will  
When thou say’st to them, “Be still!”  
Wondrous Sov’reign of the sea,  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**When at last I near the shore  
And the fearful breakers roar  
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on thy breast,  
May I hear thee say to me,  
“Fear not! I will pilot thee.”**

## **SERMON: Matthew 14:22-33**

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. <sup>24</sup>By then the boat was quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup>In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" <sup>27</sup>But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

## **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: # 415 “Be Still, My Soul”**

♪ **Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; your God will undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.**

**Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
Then you will better know his love, his heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From his own fullness all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*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: # 451 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

 **Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today’s service are given to the glory of God by Jim Moore, in gratitude for blessings received.

**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.



**Yet I am always with you...**

**Psalm 73:23**



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