



NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

*“Whatever you bind...*  
**will be bound,**  
*and whatever you loose...*  
**will be loosed...”**

M a t t h e w 1 8 : 1 8



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Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

### The Sixteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** The Church fulfills her role as her brother's keeper. The keys of the kingdom have been placed in our hands. It is our privilege and responsibility to bind and to loose — to carry out the task Christ has appointed us to on his behalf. We reach out with Law and Gospel for the sake of those whom Jesus redeemed.

## 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: # 230 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”**

♪ **Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;  
Our hearts in true devotion bow.  
Your Spirit send with grace divine,  
And let your truth within us shine.**

**Unseal our lips to sing your praise;  
Our souls to you in worship raise.  
Make strong our faith; increase our light  
That we may know your name aright.**

**Until we join the hosts that cry,  
“Hosanna to the Lord most high.”  
Then in the light of that blest place  
We shall behold you face to face.**

**Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!**

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.**

M: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **♪ Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Romans 13:1-10

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

<sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, <sup>4</sup>because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

<sup>6</sup>For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 51a

### *Refrain*



### *Psalm tone*



Have mercy on me, O God,\*  
according to your unfailing love.

**Wash away all my iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is always before me.**

***Refrain***

**Against you, you only, have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**Surely I was sinful at birth,\*  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

**Hide your face from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my iniquity.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**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. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
Alleluia. (*Philippians 4:4*)**

**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 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. <sup>20</sup>In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.”

## **HYMN: # 738 “In Hopelessness and Near Despair”**

*(sung to the tune of CW: #208)*

♪ In hopelessness and near despair,  
I cry to you, my Savior!  
My guilt is more than I can bear.  
I have not earned your favor.  
You know me as I really am:  
How much is truth, how much is sham;  
Why should you heed my pleading?

I see my heart’s condition now,  
My heart’s diverse affections.  
Why do I love the things you loathe;  
I’m torn in two directions:  
Now prodigal, now Pharisee.  
O God, be merciful to me;  
Who else but you can help me?

I tremble as I feel your hand,  
Expecting retribution,  
Yet hear no curse or reprimand,  
But grace and absolution:  
With you there is forgiveness, Lord,  
You speak the sweet, consoling Word,  
And I am sure you love me!

**Forgiven, free of guilt and shame,  
Grant me some time to render  
A gift to glorify your name,  
Love to reflect you splendor:  
This world must know what I have learned,  
That you bestow what none has earned:  
The joy of full forgiveness!**

### **SERMON: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

**<sup>7</sup>But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to a wicked man, “Wicked man, you shall surely die,” if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel. This is what you people are saying: “Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, “As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?”**

### **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.**

**Hymn: # 532 “God Is Here! As We His People”**

**♪ God is here! As we his people Meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure What it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of his Spirit Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us Of our lifelong need of grace.  
Here are table, font, and pulpit; Here the cross has central place.  
Here, in honesty of preaching, Here, in silence as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome  
In the Shepherd’s flock and fold;  
Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant Seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living To believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the gospel; Help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day’s dedication, All we have to give, receive;  
We who cannot live without you, We adore you! We believe!**

## *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 # 494 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”**

**♪ Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.**

**When here our pathways part,  
We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,  
We hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain  
And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Brunssens.

**LWMS FALL RALLY**, October 10th, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., will be a virtual rally with Zoom. Please email Mary Jo Barnes at [mjobarnes@netscapenet](mailto:mjobarnes@netscapenet) for links and more information.

**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.

I have appointed you ...



... to be a watchman.