



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

How many times shall I

**FORGIVE**

my brother or sister who

**SINS**

against me?

- Matthew 18:21



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PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, September 27, 2020*

*10:00 a.m.*

### Seventeenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** God tells his Church to model our forgiveness on his: a boundless, free, and loving forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Christ. How could our sinful hearts ever forgive like that? The Prayer of the Day asks that the mercy and grace of God precede us and follow after us, that we might love God with undivided hearts.

## 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: # 238 “Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul”**

♪ **Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**  
**Let all within me join**  
**And aid my tongue to bless his name**  
**Whose favors are divine.**

**Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,**  
**Nor let his mercies lie**  
**Forgotten in unthankfulness**  
**And without praises die.**

**'Tis he forgives my sins;**  
**'Tis he relieves my pain;**  
**'Tis he that heals my sicknesses**  
**And makes me young again.**

**He fills the poor with good;**  
**He gives the suff'ers rest;**  
**The Lord has judgments for the proud**  
**And justice for th' oppressed.**

**His wondrous works and ways**  
**He made by Moses known,**  
**But sent the world his truth and grace**  
**By his beloved Son.**

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: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through 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: Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

<sup>16</sup>They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, <sup>17</sup>'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

<sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

<sup>19</sup>Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day.

<sup>21</sup>Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 103

### *Refrain*



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

### *Psalm tone*



Praise the LORD, Q my soul;\*  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins\*  
and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave\*  
and crowns you with love and compassion.

### *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,\*  
slow to anger, aboundinging in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve\*  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,\*  
so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,\*  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

### *Refrain*

As a father has compassion on his children,\*  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,\*  
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;\*  
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him\*  
from everlasting to everlasting.

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. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (*Romans 15:4*)

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

## **SECOND LESSON: Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’

<sup>27</sup>The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

<sup>29</sup>“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

<sup>31</sup>“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

<sup>32</sup>“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to.

<sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

<sup>35</sup>“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

**HYMN: # 359 “Jesus, My Great High Priest”**

**♪ Jesus, my great High Priest, Offered his blood and died;  
My guilty conscience seeks No sacrifice beside.  
His pow’rful blood did once atone,  
And now it pleads before the throne.**

**To Christ, my substitute, Will I commit my cause;  
He answers and fulfills His Father’s broken laws.  
Behold my soul at freedom set—  
My Jesus paid the dreadful debt!**

**My advocate appears For my defense on high;  
A gracious Father hears And lays his thunder by.  
Not all that hell or sin can say  
Shall turn his heart, his love, away.**

**Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell unknown  
Put their most dreadful forms Of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
Superior pow’r and guardian grace.**

**SERMON: Galatians 2:11-21**

<sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. <sup>12</sup>For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, “If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?”

<sup>15</sup>“We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. <sup>16</sup>We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. <sup>17</sup>But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were also found to be sinners, then is Christ a servant of sin? Certainly not!

<sup>18</sup>“In fact, if I build up again those things that I destroyed, I bring on myself the judgment of being a lawbreaker. <sup>19</sup>Indeed, through the law I died to the law that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I am now living in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not regard the grace of God as nothing. As a matter of fact, if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing!”

## **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: # 383 “Blessed Are They, Forever Blest”**

**♪ Blessed are they, forever blest,  
Whose guilt is pardoned by their God,  
Whose sins with sorrow are confessed  
And covered with their Savior's blood.**

**Blessed are they to whom the Lord Imputes not their iniquity.  
They plead no merit or reward And not on works but grace rely.**

**From guile their hearts and lips are free;  
Their humble joy, their holy fear  
With deep repentance well agree  
And join to prove their faith sincere.**

**How glorious is that righteousness  
That hides and cancels all their sins,  
While bright the evidence of grace  
Through all their lives appears and shines!**

### *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: # 389 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”**

**♪ Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.**

**Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law’s demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace.  
Foul, I to the fountain fly—Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!**

**The WELS Connection**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Laura's birthday.

**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 live by faith in the Son of God,



who loved me and gave himself for me.