



Through the Spirit

we eagerly await by

faith

the righteousness

for which we

hope.

- Galatians 5:5

JOHN 3:14

from heaven" — the Son of Man. "Whoever believes in the Son of Man shall not perish but will have eternal life." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son into the world, that whoever believes in him shall not be condemned but will have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that whoever believes in him shall not be condemned. Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that what he has done may be seen and approved by everyone who does the truth.

More about Jesus

and his disciples went out into the Jordan countryside, where John was baptizing. Many people were baptizing, and there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to John. One day John was put in prison. An argument broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of who was better. John said to him, "Rabbi, that man who is baptizing in the Jordan — the one you testified about — well, he receives only what is given him from heaven.

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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 1, 2020 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 unflinching 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 of knowing 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.

OPENING HYMN: # 735 “Speak, O Lord” *(music on p. 14)*

♪ **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.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plan 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.**

M: 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.**

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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!**

M: 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 the 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.

FIRST LESSON: Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

¹⁰Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that,

just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹²They then went and asked the king about the decree. “Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?”

The king answered, “Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked.”

¹⁶Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.” ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel’s situation. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

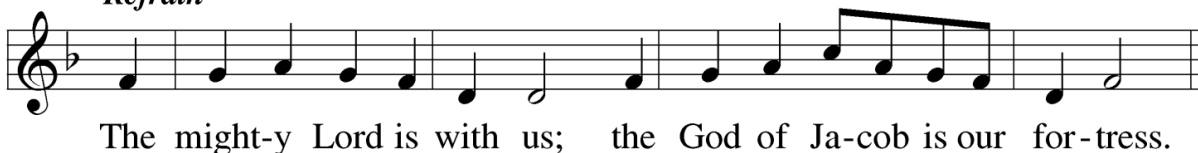
¹⁹At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Then Daniel spoke with the king. “Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime.”

²³Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46

Refrain



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

SECOND LESSON: Galatians 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. ²Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³I testify again to every man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obligated to do the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law are completely separated from Christ. You have fallen from grace.

⁵Indeed, through the Spirit, we by faith are eagerly waiting for the sure hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: 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*)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 10:16-23

¹⁶“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

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.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r 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: Psalm 119:105

Your words are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

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

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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: We lift up our hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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: # 313 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

♪ Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God’s wrath forever;
By his bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As his pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives his body with the bread
And with the wine the blood he shed.

Jesus here himself is sharing;
Take heed how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, Judgment instead you shall receive.

Useless would be Jesus’ passion If salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose
You need not him who died and rose.

Christ says, “Come, all you that labor,
And receive my grace and favor;
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician’s help or skill.”

Then hold fast with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the souls who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Praise the Father, who from heaven
Unto us such food has given
And, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death his only Son.

If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest And at his banquet ever blest.

M: 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.

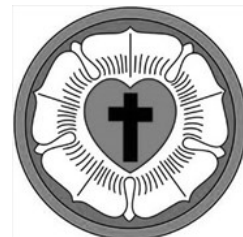
M: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #318 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

♪ **Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended; Oh, be now extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us; His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving, To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us; With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**





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
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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.

Last time

Tune: SPEAK, O LORD (8 10 8 10 10 8 10)
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Carl3's birthday.

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



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.