



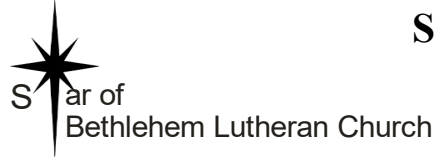
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“I am the
GOOD
shepherd.”**

John 10:11



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, April 25, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of EASTER

Theme of the day: On “Good Shepherd Sunday” our attention is fixed on Jesus the Good Shepherd of the sheep. His care and concern are recognized by those whom he has called as his sheep. Even in suffering, his sheep know his care for them and follow him.



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: # 766 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

♪ **The Lord’s my shepherd; I’ll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me The quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for his own name’s sake.
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for his own name’s sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.**

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*)

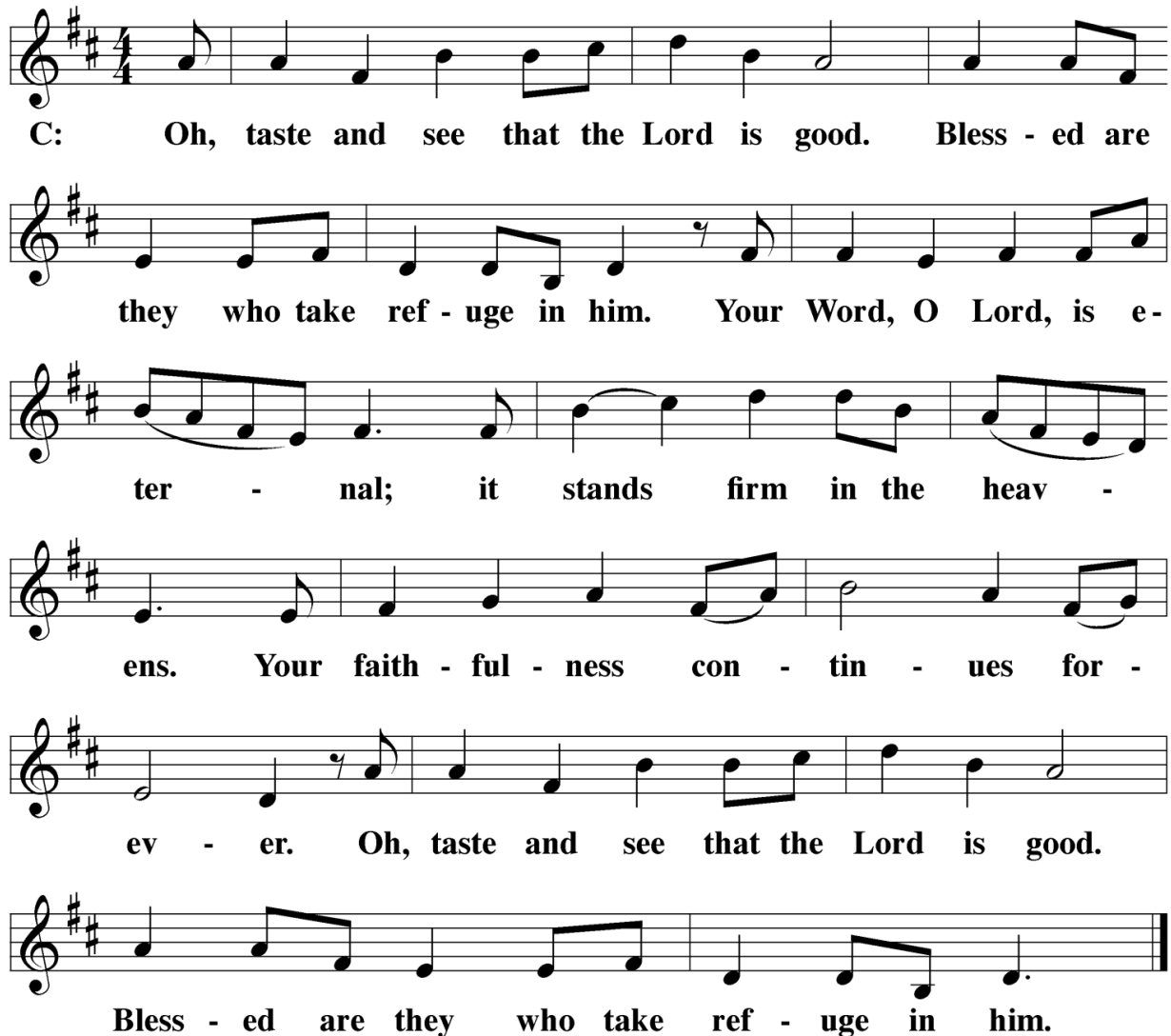
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:23-33

²³After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, “Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand,
and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord
and against his Anointed One.

²⁷“For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

²⁹“Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

³²The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 23

Refrain



The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.



The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD 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. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
Alleluia! (John 10:14)

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: John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵(just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

HYMN: # 436 “Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep”

**♪ Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who your Father’s flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by you.**

**In your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from your hand.
Speak—we hear—at your command,
We will follow you.**

**By your blood our souls were bought;
By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow you.**

**Father, draw us to your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with you.**

**We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with you.**

MESSAGE: 1 John 3:1,2

See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ²Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.

Please stand.

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.**

Please be seated.

HYMN # 432 “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

♪ **I am Jesus’ little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.**

**Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd’s lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.**

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: # 426 “Yours Forever, God of Love”

♪ **Yours forever, God of love! Hear us from your throne above;
Yours forever may we be Here and in eternity!**

**Yours forever, oh, how blest They who find in you their rest!
Savior, Guardian, heav’nly Friend, Oh, defend us to the end.**

**Yours forever, Lord of life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.
You, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.**

**Yours forever! Shepherd, keep
All your weak and trembling sheep
Safely in your tender care; Let us all your goodness share.**

**Yours forever! You our guide, All our needs by you supplied,
All our sins by you forgiv’n,
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.**

The WELS Connection

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today’s service were given to the glory of God by Jim and Ryan Moore in memory of Judy.

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, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas,

Val Wheelock, Linda Hill & Christina, Wayne Chapman, Gwen Reuter, Lynn Oberg, Louise Perry, Ilene Trevarrow, and Lynn & Anne Oberg.

THIS WEEK

Thursday Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)
Saturday Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m., SM
Sunday Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.



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