



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**


*"No branch can bear fruit by itself;  
it must remain in the vine."*

*John 15:4*



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PUBLISHING HOUSE**



 Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

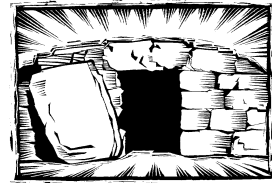
4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, May 2, 2021 10:00 a.m.*

## Fifth Sunday of EASTER

**Theme of the day:** Faith always believes the promises of God and always produces fruit to thank God for all he has done for us.



## 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”**

♪ **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. (*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.**

### **Prayer and Praise**

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: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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: 1 John 3:18-24**

**<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.**

**<sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. <sup>22</sup>We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. <sup>23</sup>This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 67**

*Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone*



May God be gracious to us and bless us\*  
and make his face shine upon us;

may your ways be known on earth,\*  
your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*  
for you rule the peoples justly  
and guide the nations of the earth.

*Refrain*

Then the land will yield its harvest,\*  
and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,\*  
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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 Way and the Truth and the Life,” says Jesus. Alleluia.  
(John 14:6)

**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 15:1-8**

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.**

**<sup>3</sup>“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

**<sup>5</sup>“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.**

## **HYMN: # 566 “We All Are One in Mission”**

**♪ We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission Compels us from above  
To plan and work together That all may know Christ’s love.**

**We all are called to service, To witness in God’s name.  
Our ministries are diff’rent; Our purpose is the same:  
To touch the lives of others With God’s surprising grace,  
So ev’ry folk and nation May feel God’s warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united, And let our song be heard;  
Now let us be a vessel For God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.**

**SERMON: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is an isolated area.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>28</sup>He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup>The Spirit told Philip, "Go over there and stay close to that chariot." <sup>30</sup>Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet.

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup>The man replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup>Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who will talk about his generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?"

<sup>38</sup>He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>40</sup>Philip, however, found himself at Azotus. And as he went from place to place, he preached the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



## **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.**

## *OFFERING*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.**

**C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.**

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

**M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his**

power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation.

With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**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.**

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.

## **The Holy Sacrament**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you. (*spoken*)**

M: Lift up your 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.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

♪ **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

## **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.**

## **HYMN DURING COMMUNION: # 558**

♪ **Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,  
Throned and exalted, victory completed,**

**Death's dread dominion finally defeated—We are his witnesses.**

**Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing,  
Who on his chosen lifted hands in blessing,  
Sends forth his servants, still in faith confessing—  
We are his witnesses.**

**Christ, who in dying won for us salvation,  
Lives now the firstborn of the new creation;  
To win disciples out of ev'ry nation, We are his witnesses.**

**Christ in his splendor, all dominion gaining,  
Christ with his people evermore remaining,  
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning—We are his witnesses.**

**As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving,  
Faith in his presence strengthen our believing;  
Filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving,  
We are his witnesses.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*Please stand.*

**♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **♪ 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: # 562 “I Love to Tell the Story”**

♪ I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story Because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.

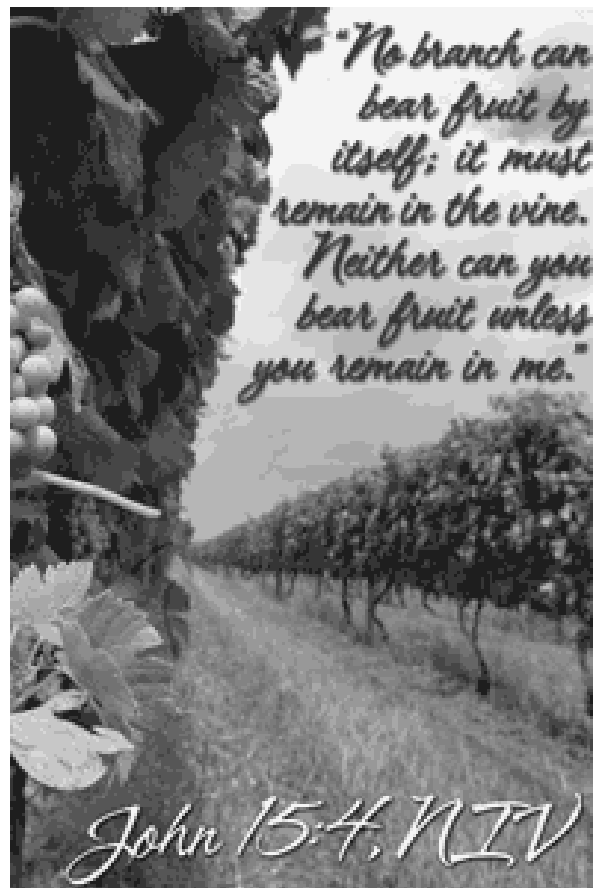
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God  
by John & Noreen on the occasion of John's birthday.

**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., SLO  
**Sunday** Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Voters' Meeting, 11:20 a.m.



# 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.*

