



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

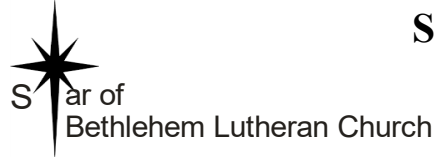
“I no longer call  
you servants . . .  
Instead, I have  
called you  
**FRIENDS.**”

John 15:15

FRIENDS



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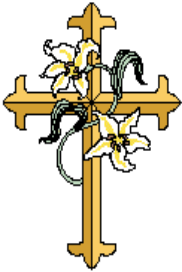


4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, May 9, 2018 10:00 a.m.*

## Sixth Sunday of Easter



**Theme of the day:** The infinite love of God is our motivation and power to love him and each other. Such love shows itself in listening to what God says in his Word, defending it from falsehood and reaching out with it to others.

## 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: # 530 “Hark! The Church Proclaims”**

♪ **Hark! The Church proclaims her honor,  
And her strength is only this:  
God has laid his choice upon her,  
And the work she does is his.**

**He his Church has firmly founded;  
He will guard what he began.  
We, by sin and foes surrounded,  
Build her walls as best we can.**

**Frail and fleeting are our powers,  
Short our days, our foresight dim.  
We confess a choice not ours:  
We were chosen first by him.**

**Though we here must strive in weakness,  
Though in tears we often bend,  
What his might began in meekness  
Shall achieve a glorious end.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Onward, then, without despairing!  
Calm we follow at his Word,  
Thus through joy and sorrow bearing  
Faithful witness to our Lord.**

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*)

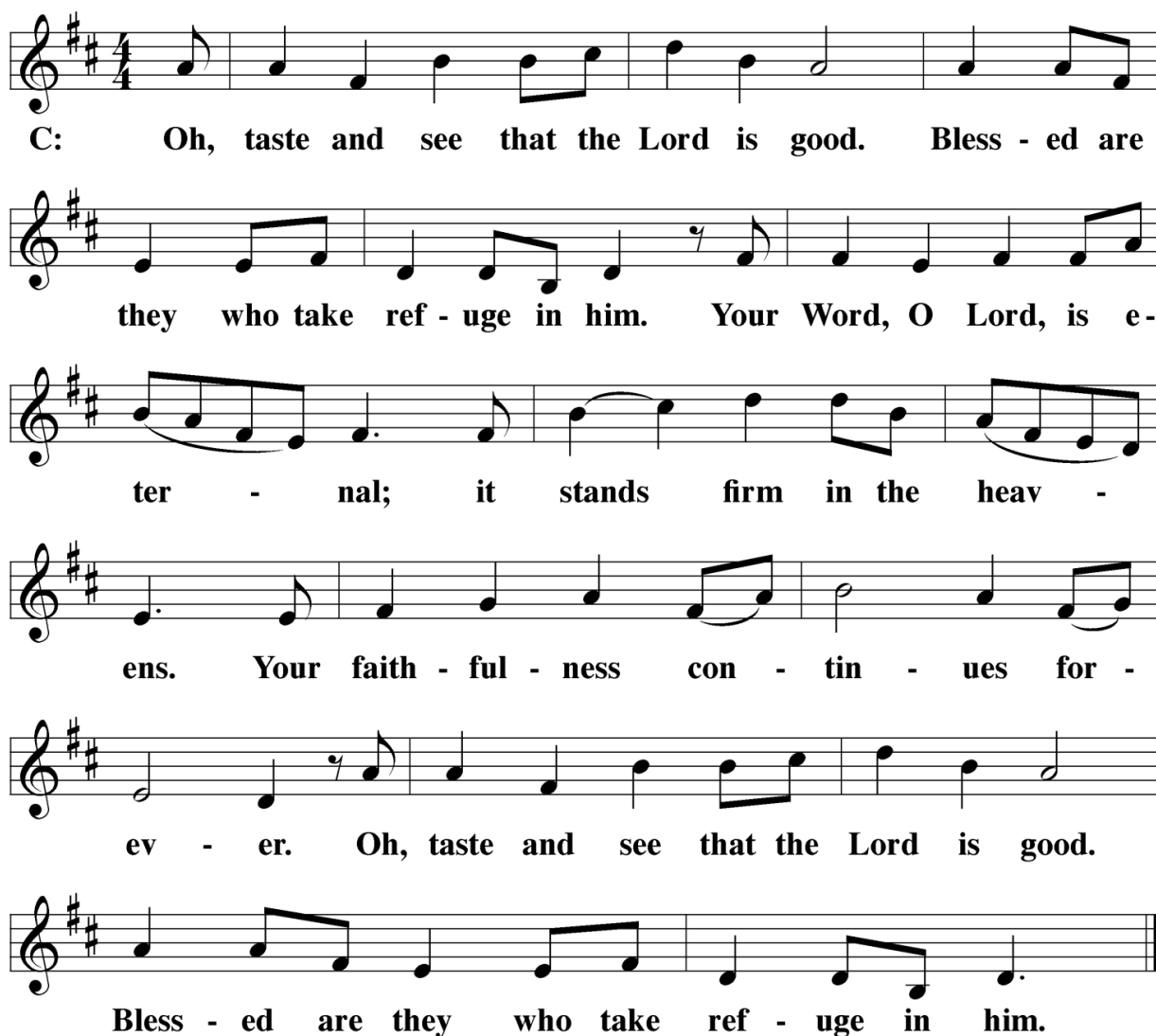
**M**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**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: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; 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: Acts 11:19-26

<sup>19</sup>Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that took place at the time of Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. <sup>20</sup>But there were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene who came to Antioch and also began to speak to the Greeks, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>A report about this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go on to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw God's grace, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts. <sup>24</sup>He was a good man who was full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a large number of people were added to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. <sup>26</sup>When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 98

### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

### *Psalm tone*



Sing to the LORD a new song,\*  
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known\*  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

**He has remembered his love and his faithfulness  
to the house of Israel;\*  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.**

*Refrain*

**Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,\*  
burst into jubilant song with music;**

**make music to the LORD with the harp,\*  
with the harp and the sound of singing.**

**Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.\*  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

**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!  
If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My father will  
love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.  
Alleluia! (John 14:23)**

**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: 1 John 4:1-11**

**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if  
they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the  
world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every**

spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world.<sup>4</sup> You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world.<sup>5</sup> They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them.<sup>6</sup> We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him.

<sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

**HYMN: # 377 "Dear Christians, One and All" (verses 1,6,8,10)**

♪ Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How his right arm the victory won.  
How dearly it has cost him!

The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,  
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
He came to be my brother.  
No garb of pomp or power he wore;  
A servant's form like mine he bore  
To lead the devil captive.

"The foe shall shed my precious blood,  
Me of my life bereaving.  
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.  
Life shall from death the victory win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.

**“What I on earth have lived and taught  
Be all your life and teaching;  
So shall my kingdom’s work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
Take care that no one’s man-made laws  
Should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause.  
This final word I leave you.”**

**MESSAGE: John 15:9-17**

**<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.**

**<sup>12</sup>“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.**

*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 # 380 “Lord, Tis Not that I Did Choose You”**

♪ **Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you;  
That, I know, could never be,  
For this heart would still refuse you  
Had your grace not chosen me.  
You removed the sin that stained me,  
Cleansing me to be your own;  
For this purpose you ordained me, That I live for you alone.**

**It was grace in Christ that called me,  
Taught my darkened heart and mind,  
Else the world had yet enthralled me,  
To your heav'nly glories blind.  
Now I worship none above you; For your grace alone I thirst,  
Knowing well that, if I love you, You, O Father, loved me first.**

**Praise the God of all creation;  
Praise the Father's boundless love.  
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,  
Priest and King enthroned above.  
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.  
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.**

*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: # 458 “May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”**

** May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill  
And do on earth our Father’s will  
As angels do above,  
Still walk in Christ, the living way,  
With all your children, and obey  
The law of Christian love.**

**So may we join your name to bless,  
Your grace adore, your power confess,  
To flee from sin and strife.  
One is our calling, one our name,  
The end of all our hopes the same:  
A glorious crown of life.**

**Spirit of life, of love, and peace,  
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,  
Your gracious help supply.  
To each of us the blessing give  
In Christian fellowship to live,  
In joyful hope to die.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Moores on the occasion of Ryan'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, 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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