

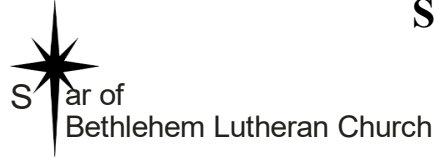


**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**HE HAS DONE
EVERYTHING
WELL. MARK 7:37**



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Unbelief mocks and says that if God did all things well and was the source of all good, then he shouldn't allow misery and need. But especially in need and suffering God does all things well; that truth is the center of our quiet confidence. It is the reason for our hope based on the promises of God and earned for us by the work of Christ and its eternal consequences 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: # 227 “Come, Let Us Join”

♪ Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne.
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“To be exalted thus.”
“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply,
“For he was slain for us.”

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and pow’r divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever thine.

Please stand for last verse:

Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of him who sits upon the throne
And to adore the Lamb.

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

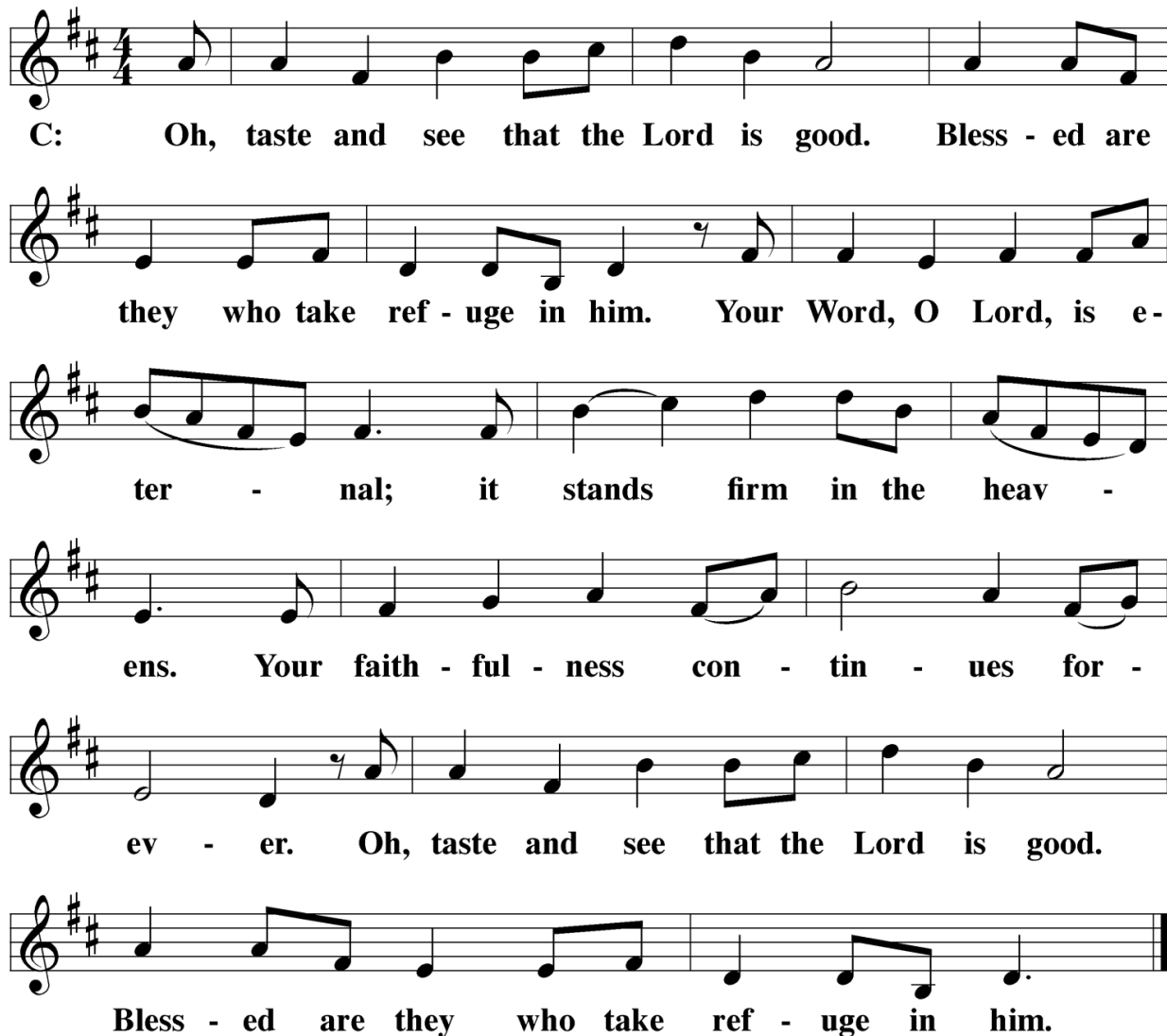
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

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: God of compassion, your Son, Jesus, came to the suffering, the in-
firm, and the dying, and by his word of authority he set them free.
Bless the ministry of your Church that it may continue to speak a
word of deliverance to all those in need; 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: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, com-
ing down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift
like a shadow. ¹⁸Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of
truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

¹⁹Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. ²⁰Certainly, a man's anger does not bring about what is right before God. ²¹So after getting rid of all moral filthiness and overflowing wickedness, receive with humility the word planted in you. It is able to save your souls.

²²Be people who do what the word says, not people who only hear it. Such people are deceiving themselves. ²³In fact, if anyone hears the word and does not do what it says, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own natural face in a mirror. ²⁴Indeed, he carefully looks at himself; then, he goes away and immediately forgets what he looked like. ²⁵But the one who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to do so—since he does not hear and forget but actually does what it says—that person will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶If anyone considers himself to be religious but deceives his own heart because he does not bridle his tongue, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 146

Refrain



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm tone *



Praise the **L****O**R**D**, **O** my soul.*
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*
in mortal men, who cannot save.

**Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Refrain

**The LORD gives food to the hungry,*
the LORD sets prisoners free.**

**The LORD gives sight to the blind,*
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**The LORD watches over the outcast*
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

**The LORD remains faithful forever.*
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**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. Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again:
Rejoice! Alleluia! (*Philippians 4:4*)**

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7:31-37

**³¹Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to
the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.**

**³²They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech
impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him.**

³³Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!") ³⁵Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. ³⁷They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

HYMN: # 751 "Word of God, When All Was Silent"
(To the tune of CW: 578)

♪ **Word of God, when all was silent, Source of all that was to be;
With the Father and the Spirit, One throughout eternity:
When you spoke the whole creation
Came to birth by your decree.**

**Word made flesh, you came among us
Sharing all our joy and pain,
Helping, healing, living, loving,
Lamb of God, for sinners slain:
By your body, broken, bleeding, Make creation whole again.**

**Word of Life, raised up in power
From the tomb on Easter morn,
Victor over death's dominion, Bringing hope to souls forlorn:
Make our lives a new creation By the Spirit's gift reborn.**

**Word of God, your call, unsilenced,
Sounds throughout our passing years,
Seeking, probing, penetrating
By its truth our doubts and fears:
Speak to us until we hear you; Open dulled and deafened ears.**

**Praise the Word for life unending!
Praise the Word for truth that heals!
Praise the Word that shines where darkness
God's undying love conceals!
Praise the Word whose grace incarnate
Still the heart of God reveals!**

SERMON: Isaiah 35:1-10

**The wilderness and the desert will be glad.
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a
crocus.**

**²It will bloom lavishly,
and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.**

**³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make the shaky knees steady.**

⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong.

Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

**⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.**

**⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.**

**⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts
of jackals once lay.**

**⁸A highway will be there,
a road that will be called the holy way.
The impure will not walk there.
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.**

**⁹No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.
They will not be found there,
but only the redeemed will walk there.**

**¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Happiness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

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: # 399 “To God Be the Glory”

**♪ To God be the glory; great things he has done!
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory—great things he has done!**

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

Refrain

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.**

Refrain

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.

CLOSING HYMN # 321 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name"

♪ Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy people free,
For dark and light are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Oberg's in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

LWMS 2022 CALENDARS coming soon! See Chris Oberg for how to order yours.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, 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, Linda Hill & Christina, and Wayne Chapman.

THIS WEEK

Today	Voters, 11:20 a.m.
Thursday	Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Friday	Atascadero Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Catechism Class, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.
	Fellowship Lunch

