



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Watch out

“Watch out that no one
deceives you.”

Mark 13:5



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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
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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 unfailing 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.

WE ENTER THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: # 541 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

♪ **Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide,
Nor let your Word, that heav’nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.**

**O God, how sin’s dread works abound!
Throughout the earth no rest is found,
And falsehood’s spirit wide has spread,
And error boldly rears its head.**

**In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Your holy Word and sacrament.**

**Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well your Word of grace,
And spread its truth in ev’ry place.**

**Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.**

**The cause is yours, the glory, too,
So hear us, Lord, and keep us true.
Your Word alone is our defense,
The Church’s glorious confidence.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Oh, grant that in your holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey’s ending here,
Receive us into glory there.**

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 co-eternal 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: All Glory Be to God Alone (CW: #262)**

**All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may his good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

**We praise you, God, and you we bless;
We worship you in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify
The everlasting God on high.
Of your great glory do we sing,
And to your throne our thanks we bring.**

**You only are the Holy One;
O'er all things you are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify
You and the Spirit, Lord most high;
With him you evermore shall be
One in the Father's majesty.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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: Jeremiah 18:1-11

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Get up, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will reveal my words to you.”

³So I went down to the potter’s house, and he was making something on the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was forming out of the clay was ruined as he shaped it with his hands, so the potter formed it into a different pot, whatever he saw fit to make. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me.

⁶House of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? declares the LORD. See, like clay in the potter’s hands, that is what you are in my hands, house of Israel. ⁷One time I may say that a nation or a kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, ⁸but if that nation I spoke about repents of its evil, then I will relent and not bring the disaster I had planned to bring against it. ⁹Another time I may say that a nation or a kingdom is to be built and planted, ¹⁰but if they do what is evil in my sight by not listening to my voice, then I will not bring about the good I said I would do for them.

¹¹Now therefore say this to the men of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem. This is what the LORD says. Look! I am forming a disaster against you. I am devising a plan against you. Turn from your evil ways, each of you, and reform your ways and your actions.

HYMN: # 201 “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.**

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 14:6,7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky. He had the everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷He said with a loud voice:

Fear God and give him glory,
because the hour of his judgment has come.
Worship him who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and the
springs of water.

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: Mark 13:5-10

⁵Jesus began by telling them, “Be careful that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

⁷“Whenever you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸In fact, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹But be on your guard! People will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand in the presence of rulers and kings for my sake as a witness to them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.”

HYMN: # 200 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

♪ Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower 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 46

**For the choir director. By the Sons of Korah.
According to *alamoth*. A song.**

**¹God is our refuge and strength,
a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.**

**²That is why we will not fear when the earth dissolves
and when the mountains tumble into the heart of the sea.**

³Its waters roar and foam.

The mountains quake when it rises.

Interlude

**⁴There is a river—its streams bring joy to the city of God,
to the holy dwelling of the Most High.**

⁵God is in her. She will not fall.

God will help her at daybreak.

⁶Nations are in turmoil. Kingdoms fall.

God raises his voice. The earth melts.

⁷The LORD of Armies is with us.

The God of Jacob is a fortress for us.

Interlude

⁸Come, look at the works of the LORD.

What a wasteland he has made of the earth!

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth.

He shatters the bow. He cuts up the spear.

He burns the carts with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations.

I will be exalted on the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of Armies is with us.

The God of Jacob is a fortress for us.

Interlude

CONFESSION of FAITH (Formula of Concord, Article III)

It is unanimously confessed in our churches, in accordance with God's Word, that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved alone through faith in Christ.

We unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness neither according to his divine nature alone nor according to his human nature alone. But it is the entire Christ who is our Righteousness according to both natures. In his obedience alone, which as God and man he offered to the Father even to his death, he merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God is this: God forgives our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of our preceding, present, or following. He presents and credits to us the righteousness of Christ's obedience. Because of this righteousness, we are received into grace by God and regarded as righteous.

We believe, teach, and confess that faith alone is the means and instrument through which we lay hold of Christ. So in Christ we lay hold of that righteousness that benefits us before God, for whose sake this faith is credited to us for righteousness.

We believe, teach, and confess that this faith is not a bare knowledge of Christ's history, but it is God's gift. By this gift we come to the right knowledge of Christ as our Redeemer in the Word of the Gospel. And we trust in him that for the sake of his obedience alone we have – by grace – the forgiveness of sins and are regarded as holy and righteous before God the Father and are eternally saved.

This article about justification by faith is the chief article in all Christian doctrine. Without this teaching no poor conscience can have any firm consolation or truly know the riches of Christ's grace. Amen.

HYMN: # 415 "Be Still, My Soul"

**♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.

M: Here we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children here on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

C: Thy kingdom come.

M: We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

M: We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will, in life and in death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

C: Give us this day our daily bread.

M: We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for our needs.

C: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

M: We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

M: We pray here that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: And finally we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul, now and forever.

C: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

M: All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts, Amen, trusting without any doubts that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

CLOSING BLESSING

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: # 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Brunssens.

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, Wayne Chapman, Terry Oberg, Roger Brunssen, and Roberta Gowin.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please fill out and return the blue information sheets (in the narthex) as soon as possible.

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TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to fall back for next Sunday, November 7.

