



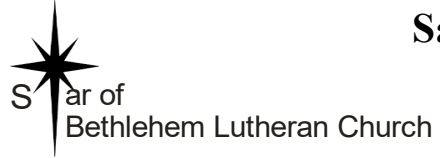
NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

“MAKE
EVERY
EFFORT
TO ENTER
THROUGH
THE
NARROW
DOOR ...”

LUKE 13:24A



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: The paths of eternity are twofold: total joy in heaven or utter destruction in hell. Every human being will find himself in one or the other for all eternity. The way to heaven is through the “narrow door” of Jesus Christ, trusting in him alone for salvation and abandoning the works of the law as a way to earn eternal life.

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: # 621 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

♪ **Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing;
Alleluia, alleluia! praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless,
Alleluia, alleluia! glorious in his faithfulness!**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes;
Alleluia, alleluia! widely yet his mercy flows!**

Please stand for last verse:

**Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
all who dwell in time and space,
Alleluia, alleluia! praise with us the God of grace!**

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

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: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Isaiah 66:18-24

¹⁸As for me, because of their works and their thoughts, the time is coming for me to gather people from all nations and all languages.

They will come, and they will see my glory.

¹⁹Then I will set up a sign among them, and I will send out survivors from among them to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, to those who are archers, to Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands, who have not heard my message and have not seen my glory. Then they will declare my glory among the nations.

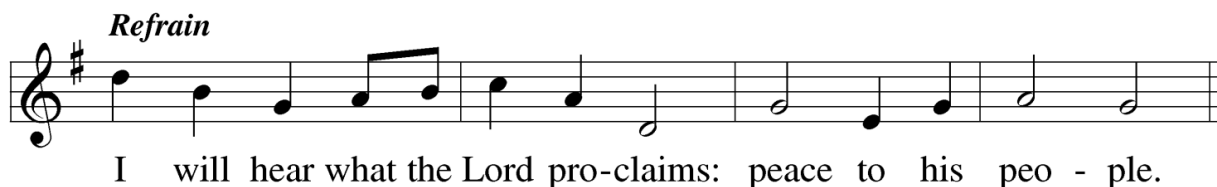
²⁰Then they will bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. They will bring them on horses and chariots and wagons and mules and dromedaries to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, in the same way that the people of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel to the LORD's house. ²¹Even from among these people I will take priests and Levites, says the LORD.

²²For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will remain standing before me, declares the LORD, in the same way your offspring and your name will stand.

²³As often as one new moon follows another and one Sabbath follows another, all flesh will come to worship before me, says the LORD.

²⁴They will go out, and they will see the corpses of the ones who were rebelling against me, for their worm will not die, and their fire will not be quenched, and all flesh will be horrified by them.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 103



Praise the LORD, O my soul;*
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve*
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*
so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his children,*
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,*
he remembers that we are dust.

**Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*
the wind blows over it and it is gone.**

**But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him*
from everlasting to everlasting.**

**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. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.
Alleluia. (*Luke 13:29*)

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: Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to burning fire, to darkness, to gloom, to a raging storm, ¹⁹to the sound of a trumpet, and to a voice that spoke. Those who heard the voice asked that not one more word be added, ²⁰because they could not endure what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²²Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God; to the heavenly Jerusalem; to tens of thousands of angels in joyful assembly; ²³to the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven; to God, who is the judge of all; to the spirits of righteous people who have been made perfect; ²⁴to Jesus, the mediator of a new testament; and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better message than the blood of Abel.

HYMN: # 698 “Seek Where You May to Find a Way”

♪ **Seek where you may to find a way
that leads to your salvation.
My heart is stilled, on Christ I build,
he is the one foundation.
His Word is sure, his works endure;
he overthrows all evil foes;
through him I more than conquer.**

**Seek whom you may to be your stay,
none can redeem another.
All helpers failed; this man prevailed,
the God-Man, Christ our brother.
This Servant-Lord our life restored;
we’re justified, for he has died,
the guiltless for the guilty.**

**Seek him alone who did atone,
who did your souls deliver.
O, seek him first, all you who thirst
for grace that fails you never.
In ev’ry need seek him indeed;
to ev’ry heart he will impart
his blessings without measure.**

**My heart’s delight, my crown most bright,
O, Christ, you are forever.
Not wealth or pride or fortune’s tide
our bond of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; your precious Word
shall light my way each daunting day.
O teach me, Lord, to trust you!**

SERMON: Luke 13:22-30

²²He went on his way from one town and village to another, teaching, and making his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone said to him, “Lord, are only a few going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.

²⁵Once the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open for us!' He will tell you in reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ²⁶Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷And he will say, 'I don't know where you come from. Depart from me, all you evildoers.' ²⁸There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown outside. ²⁹People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And note this: Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

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, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious.
Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your
hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society.
Bless our national, state (provincial), and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: 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 sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: # 836 “I Walk in Danger All the Way”

♪ I walk in danger all the way; the thought shall never leave me
that Satan, who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares may seize me unawares
if e’er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.

I pass through trials all the way, with sin and ills contending;
in patience I must bear each day
the cross of God’s own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee,
when storms of woe my soul dismay;
I pass through trials all the way.

Grim death pursues me all the way, nowhere I rest securely;
he comes by night, he comes by day,
he takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I in death’s strong grasp may lie
to face eternity today; grim death pursues me all the way.

**I walk with angels all the way,
they shield me and befriend me;
all Satan's pow'r is held at bay
when heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense; all fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may,
I walk with angels all the way.**

**I walk with Jesus all the way, his guidance never fails me;
within his wounds I find a stay
when Satan's pow'r assails me;
and by his footsteps led, my path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.**

**My walk is heav'nward all the way;
await, my soul, the morrow,
when you at last with joy can say farewell to sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
my walk is heav'nward all the way.**

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: # 924 “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

**♪ Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace
that Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word
and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav’nly brightness among us, precious Light;
your truth direct and keep us from error’s gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.**

**Abide with your protection among us, Lord, our strength,
lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Rose Marie Hillberg, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, and Don Pedersen.

BIBLE STUDIES: While we do meet in person for our weekly Bible Classes (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.; Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.), we also continue to “Zoom” all our studies. If you want to be included in the weekly e-mail with the zoom codes and print-outs, please let Pastor Foley know.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: To participate in our online church directory please fill out and return the blue information sheets (in the narthex). Once you have access, you will be able to edit your information (or you can ask Pastor Foley to do so).

To view and use the directory online, go to:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.”

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for “Instant Church Directory”

*** You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

THIS WEEK

Thursday Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.**