



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**“No one can
serve
two masters.”**

Luke 16:13a



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PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, September 18, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Money is a master the devil often uses to tempt us. Jesus knows that serving money makes it impossible to serve God. The human heart is not big enough for both. So our Savior exposes the futility of serving money and also helps us see that the only one truly worth serving is our gracious, loving God.

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 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

♪ **Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise his name, I’m fixed upon it,
name of God’s redeeming love.**

**Hitherto thy love has blessed me,
thou hast drawn me to this place;
and I know thy hand will lead me
safely home by thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand’ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wand’ring heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

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: O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; 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: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

¹⁰Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor.

¹¹When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes?

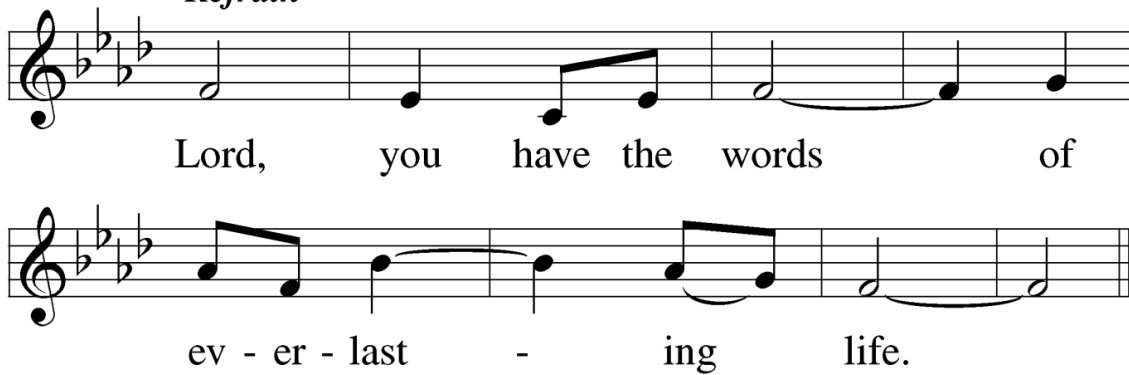
¹²The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep.

¹³I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, ¹⁴or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. ¹⁵As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? ¹⁷Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger.

¹⁸So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. ¹⁹Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, ²⁰for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119b

Refrain



Psalm tone



Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;*
then I will keep them to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will keep your law*
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,*
for there I find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
preserve my life according to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
so that you may be feared.

How I long for your precepts!*
Preserve my life in your righteousness.

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. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia.

(Matthew 6:33)

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 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out.

⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied.

⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction and utter ruin. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

¹⁷Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

HYMN: # 807 (verses 1-3,5) “All Depends on Our Possessing”

♪ All depends on our possessing
God’s abundant grace and blessing,
though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
in their God are not forsaken
and will keep a dauntless heart.

**He who to this day has fed me
and to many joys has led me
is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
he who daily guides and rules me,
will remain my help divine.**

**Many spend their lives in fretting
over trifles and in getting
things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
that will bring me lasting pleasure
and that now is seldom found.**

**Well he knows what best to grant me;
all the longing hopes that haunt me,
joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt his wisdom never;
as God wills, so be it ever;
I to him commit my way.**

SERMON: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. ²The rich man called him in and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’

⁵“He called each one of his master’s debtors to him. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘Six hundred gallons of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘Six hundred bushels of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light are. ⁹I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous *mammon*, so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰The person who is faithful with very little is also faithful with much. And the person who is unrighteous with very little is also unrighteous with much. ¹¹So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous *mammon*, who will entrust you with what is really valuable? ¹²If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters. Indeed, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and *mammon*.”

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

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.

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: # 819 “If God Himself Be for Me”

♪ **If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;
for when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above,
what foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?**

**This I believe, yea rather, of this I make my boast,
that God is my dear Father, the friend who loves me most,
and that, whate’er betide me, my Savior is at hand
thro’ stormy seas to guide me and bring me safe to land.**

**I build on this foundation, that Jesus and his blood
alone are my salvation, my true, eternal good.
Without him all that pleases is valueless on earth;
the gifts I have from Jesus alone have priceless worth.**

**He canceled my offenses, delivered me from death;
he is the Lord who cleanses my soul from sin through faith.
In him I can be cheerful, courageous on my way;
in him I am not fearful of God's great Judgment Day.**

**Now no one can condemn me or set my hope aside.
now hell no more can claim me, its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me, no guilt destroys my peace,
for Christ, my Savior, loves me and shields me with his grace.**

**No danger, thirst, or hunger, no pain or poverty,
no earthly tyrant's anger shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, you are my Savior true;
no fire or sword or thunder shall sever me from you.**

**My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad;
my soul is filled with singing, sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King;
the heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.**

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: # 678 “Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters”

♪ Once in the blest baptismal waters
I put on Christ and make him mine;
now, numbered with God’s sons and daughters,
I share his peace and love divine.
My God, for Jesus’ sake I pray
your peace may bless my dying day.

His body and his blood I’ve taken
in his blest supper, feast divine;
now I shall never be forsaken
for I am his and he is mine.
My God, for Jesus’ sake I pray
your peace may bless my dying day.

Though death may come today, tomorrow,
I know in Christ I perish not;
he grants the peace that stills all sorrow,
gives me a robe without a spot.
My God, for Jesus’ sake I pray
your peace may bless my dying day.

And thus I live in God contented
and die without a thought of fear;
to God’s good plans I have consented,
my faith is focused, firm, and clear.
By grace in Jesus’ name I say,
“Lord, you will bless my dying day!”

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, Don Peder-sen and Louise Perry.

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

Tuesday

ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

ESL, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday

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

Worship, 10:00 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.

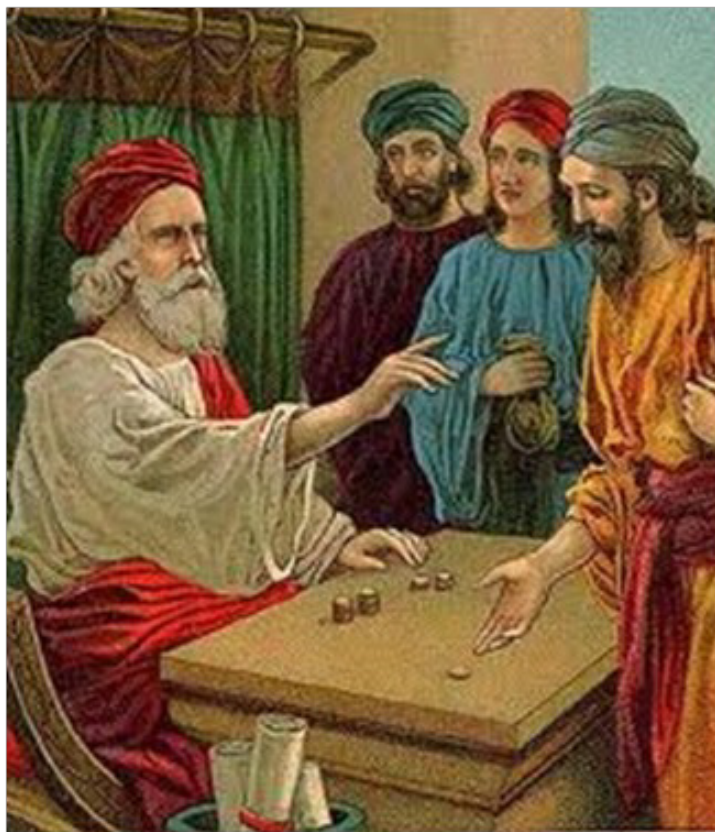
Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

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.



Give an account of your management...

- Luke 16:2