



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

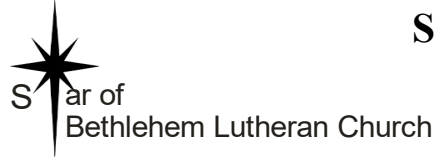
**"YOU HAVE HEARD
THAT IT WAS SAID . . .
BUT I TELL YOU . . ."**



MATTHEW 5:21,22



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, February 12, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Theme of the day: Love your enemies! What could be more counter-intuitive? Yet Christ calls his disciples to a love for our neighbor that models itself after Jesus' love for the world. As Luther said: *Christi sumus in nominativo et genitivo* (We are Christs—with and without the apostrophe). A heart like Christ's has no room for vengeance, but is filled with love for all.

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: # 798 “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

♪ **I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
he bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains
white in his blood most precious till not a spot remains.**

**I lay my wants on Jesus, all fullness dwells in him;
he heals all my diseases, my soul he does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, my burdens and my cares;
he from them all releases, he all my sorrows shares.**

**I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine;
his right hand me embraces, I in his arms recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
like fragrance on the breezes his name abroad is poured.**

Please stand for last verse:

**I long to be like Jesus, meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, the Father’s holy child.
I long to be with Jesus amid the heav’nly throng,
to sing with saints his praises, to learn the angels’ song.**

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: O God, good and gracious, you show great mercy to all who call on you. Listen to our cry, and in your mercy take away our offenses that we may serve you faithfully here and stand in your presence in eternal glory hereafter; 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: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Do not just pretend to love others. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another with brotherly love. Think of others as deserving more honor than yourselves. ¹¹Do not be lagging behind in zeal, but be fervent in spirit, as you continue to

serve the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope. Endure trials patiently. Persist in prayer. ¹³Share with the saints who are in need. Be quick to welcome strangers as guests.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

¹⁷Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰But:

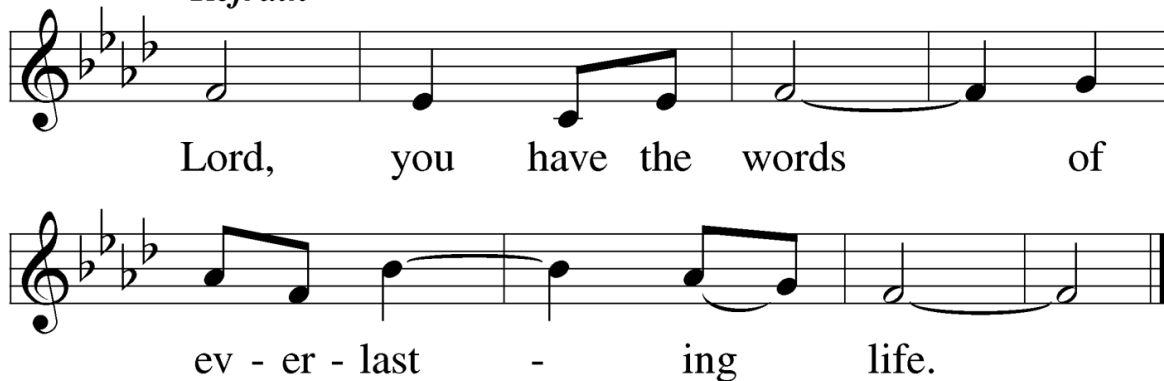
If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119 b

Refrain



Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

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. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute
you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven.
Alleluia. (Matthew 5:44,45)**

**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: Matthew 5:38-48

**³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth
for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evildoer. If someone
strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰If any-
one wants to sue you to take away your shirt, give him your coat**

too. ⁴¹Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

⁴⁶Indeed if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even tax collectors do that, don’t they? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even the unbelievers do that? ⁴⁸So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

HYMN: # 729 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

♪ **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us,
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead: fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrongs and help our need.**

**Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy,
sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken?
Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.**

**As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.**

**Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us,
hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope’s fruition:
here on earth your will be done.**

SERMON: 1 Samuel 26:7-25

⁷So during the night David and Abishai passed through the people in the camp, and they saw that Saul was sleeping inside the defensive perimeter of the camp, with his spear stuck into the ground beside his head. Abner and the rest of the men were lying all around him.

⁸Then Abishai said to David, “God has delivered your enemy into your hand today. Please let me strike him and pin him to the ground with my spear. One blow! That’s all I’ll need! I won’t need to strike him a second time.”

⁹But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?”

¹⁰David continued, “As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come and he will die, or he will go down into battle and be swept away. ¹¹May I be cursed if I stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. Now go and take the spear that is beside his head and the jar of water, and we will go.”

¹²So David took the spear and the jar of water that were next to Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw them. No one knew anything. No one woke up. They were all sound asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

¹³Then David moved over to a position across from the camp and stood on the top of the mountain some distance away. There was a lot of space between them. ¹⁴David then shouted to the people and to Abner son of Ner, “Abner, are you going to answer?”

Abner responded, “Who are you to be shouting at the king?”

¹⁵David said to Abner, “Aren’t you a man? Who is like you in Israel? So why haven’t you kept watch over your lord, the king? For someone came into the camp to destroy your lord the king. ¹⁶This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because all of you have not kept watch over your master, the LORD’s anointed. Now look around! Where are the king’s spear and the jar of water that was next to his head?”

¹⁷Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is this your voice, David, my son?”

David said, “It is my voice, my lord the king.” ¹⁸He added, “Why does my lord pursue his servant? What have I done? What evil is there in my hand? ¹⁹So please, let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant. If it is the LORD who has stirred you up against me, let him accept an offering. But if it is other people, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out today so that I cannot remain in my share of the LORD’s inheritance. They keep

saying, ‘Go, serve other gods!’ ²⁰Now therefore, do not let my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD, for the king of Israel has come out searching for a flea, or like someone who hunts for a partridge in the mountains.”

²¹Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son, for I will not harm you anymore, because my life was precious in your eyes today. I have acted like a fool and have made a terrible mistake.”

²²David responded, “Look, here is your spear, O King! Let one of the young men come over and get it. ²³May the LORD deal with every man according to his righteousness and his faithfulness, because the LORD handed you over to me today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. ²⁴Just as your life was precious in my eyes today, so let my life be precious in the LORD’s eyes, and let him deliver me from all persecution.”

²⁵Then Saul said to David, “May you be blessed, David my son. You will certainly accomplish great things, and you will certainly remain successful.”

So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his own place.

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: # 768 “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”

**♪ Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, ev’ry race;
and in each person help me view
my kindred, loved, redeemed by you.**

**Break down the wall that would divide
your children , Lord, on ev’ry side
My neighbors’ good let me pursue;
bind them to me and all to you.**

**Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will hurt my neighbor, Lord, and you.**

**Give me your courage, Lord, to speak
whenever strong oppress the weak;
and should I be a victim, too,
help me forgive, rememb’ring you.**

**With your own love may I be filled
and by your Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, whate’er I do,
may be divinely touched by you.**

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: # 726 “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

**♪ Love in Christ is strong and living,
binding faithful hearts in one;
love in Christ is true and giving,
may his will in us be done!**

**Love is patient and forbearing,
clothed in Christ’s humility,
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever,
fainting not when ills attend;
love, forgiving and forgiven,
shall endure until life’s end.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Ehingers on the occasion of Paula's birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, and Jeff Brown.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday **Circuit Meeting — Tarzana**
 ESL — 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**
 ESL — 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

COMING UP

ASH WEDNESDAY (Beginning of Lent),
Wednesday, February 22nd, 7:00 p.m.