



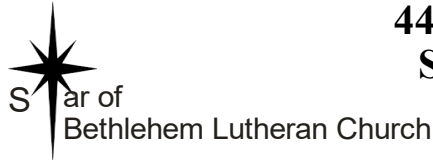
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Cast all your
anxiety
on him because he
cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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

Worship Service

Sunday, May 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.

The ASCENSION of our LORD

Theme of the day: Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended to the Father's right hand to rule over all creation for the good of all who believe in him, and now calls us to be his witnesses to everyone.

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: # 549 “Across the Lands”

♪ You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!
You're the author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ry man,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea,
yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free!
You're the author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ry man,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Please stand for last verse:

With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven, leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father, interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home!
You're the author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ry man,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

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: 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.**

Prayer and Praise

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule all things. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ²until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 47

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Clap your hands, all you nations;^{*}
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,^{*}
the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations;^{*}
God is seated on his holy throne.

Refrain

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,^{*}
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;^{*}
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**For God is the King of all the earth;*
sing to him a psalm of praise.**

**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. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.
And surely I am with you always until the end of the age. Alleluia.
(Matthew 28:20)

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: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. ²⁰It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. ²³The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

HYMN: # 474 “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

♪ **Hail the day that sees him rise to his throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n,
reascends his native heav’n.**

**There the glorious triumph waits:
lift your heads, eternal gates!
He has conquered death and sin; take the King of glory in!**

**See, the heav’n its Lord receives,
yet he loves the earth he leaves;
though returning to his throne, still he calls the world his own.**

**See, he lifts his hands above; see, he shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow blessings on his Church below.**

**Still for us he intercedes; his atoning death he pleads.
He, the first of all our race, near himself prepares a place.**

**There we shall with him remain
partners in his endless reign,
there his face unclouded see, live with him eternally.**

MESSAGE: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

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: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness.

The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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 raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. 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: # 472 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

**♪ A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his followers they see their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To them the shining angels cry,
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?” Alleluia! Alleluia!
“This is the Savior,” thus they say.
“This is his glorious triumph day.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**“You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky.” Alleluia! Alleluia!
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
and be our future great reward. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Then, throned with you forever, we
shall praise your name eternally.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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: # 700 “Draw Us to Thee”

 **Draw us to thee, for then shall we
walk in thy steps forever
and hasten on where thou art gone
to be with thee, dear Savior.**

**Draw us to thee, Lord, lovingly;
let us depart with gladness
that we may be forever free
from sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

**Draw us to thee; O grant that we
may walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way lest we should stray
and from thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to thee that also we thy heav’nly bliss inherit
and ever dwell where sin and hell
no more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to thee unceasingly; into thy kingdom take us.
Let us fore’er thy glory share;
thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

“Hi, We’re Your Neighbors at Star”- Big, promotional, fun fellowship, outreach day at Waller Park, Saturday, August 19th. Start thinking about it now.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday ESL (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**

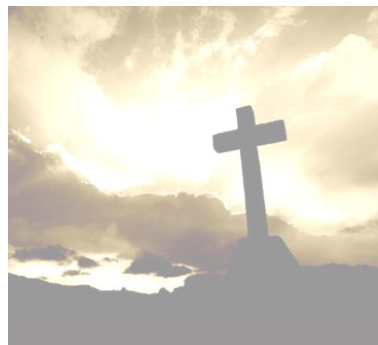
Thursday Bible Class, **10:00 a.m.**

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

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

Worship, **10:00 a.m.**

Good Shepherd Bible Camp: July 9-15, grades 4-10. See Pastor Foley for more information and registration forms. Or check out: goodshepherdbiblecamp.com



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?

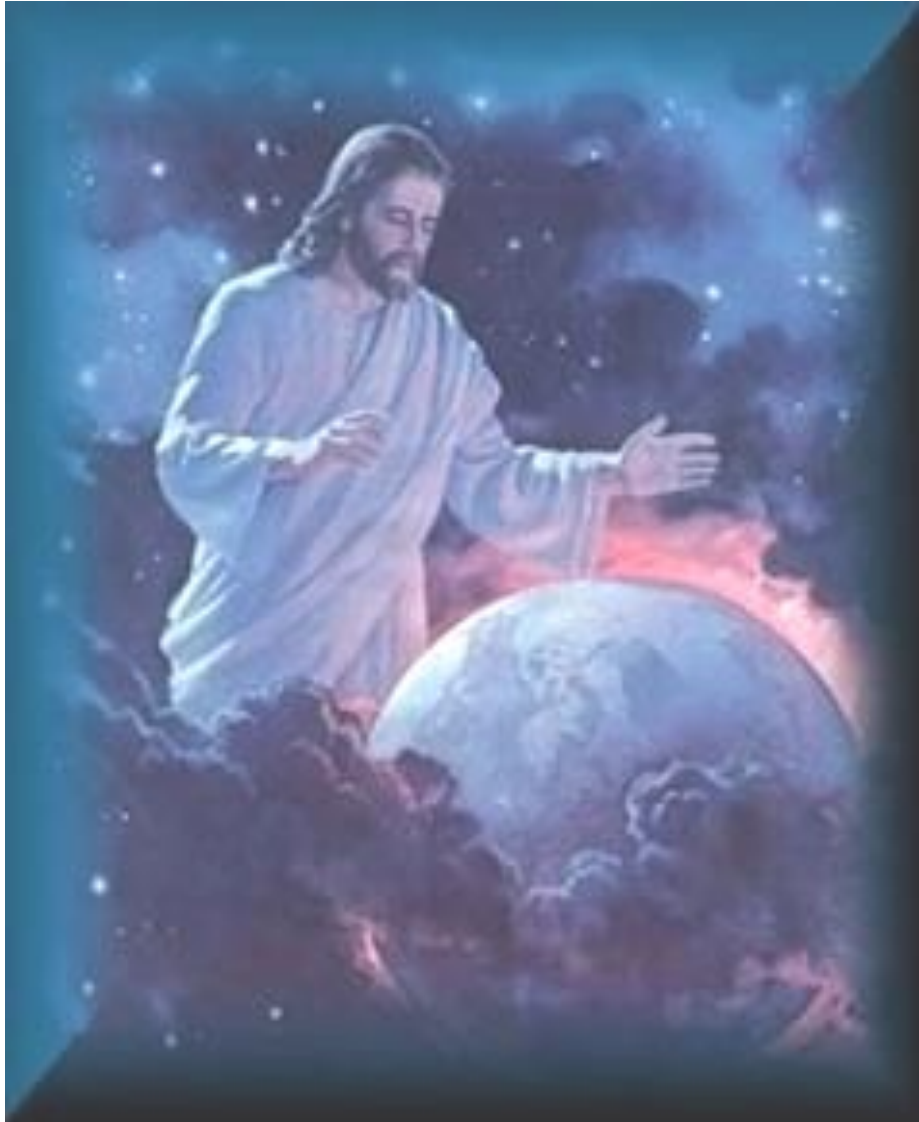
A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.

God placed all things under his feet and made him



head over everything *for the church.*

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