



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



**“Don’t be afraid;  
you are worth more  
than many sparrows.”**



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Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

### Worship Service

*Sunday, June 25, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### The Fourth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** Christians expect persecution for Jesus' sake. Nevertheless, we are sustained by the Word of our God. His gospel makes us bold to confess him before the world. Only the perfect life and death of our Savior make us willing and able to make the confession and live the life of his people.

### 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: # 711 “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”**

♪ **Jesus calls us o’er the tumult  
of our life’s wild, restless sea;  
day by day his voice invites us,  
saying, “Christian, follow me!”**

**As the first disciples heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world’s golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, “Christian, love me more.”**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**Jesus calls us! In your mercy,  
Savior, help us hear your call;  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all!**

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)*

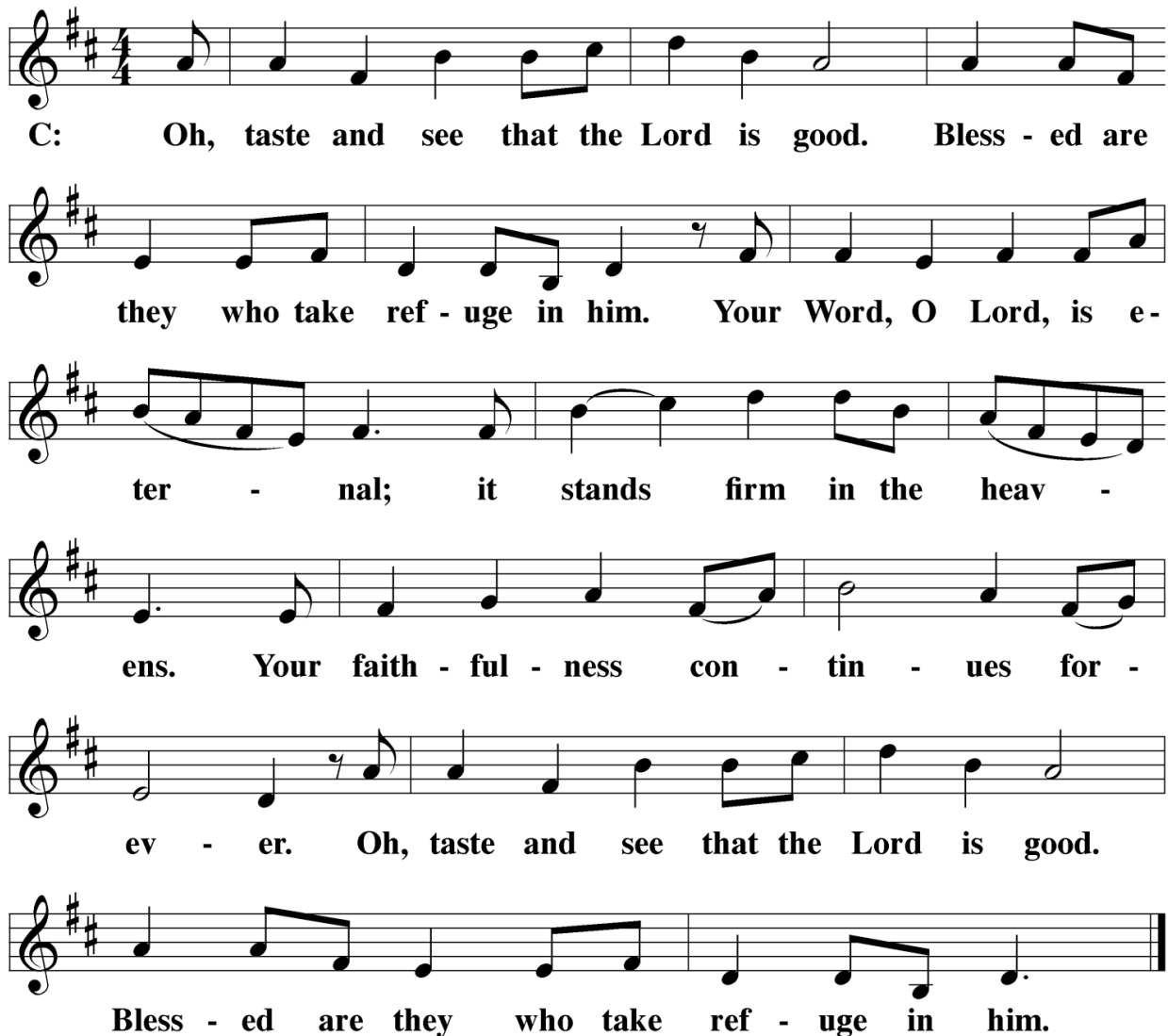
**M**: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love  
and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and  
deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess  
our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**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, because your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in your eternal love; 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 20:7-13**

- <sup>7</sup>You persuaded me, LORD, and I agreed to it.  
You are stronger than I am, and you won out.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long,  
and everyone is mocking me.**
- <sup>8</sup>Whenever I speak, I cry out.  
I cry out, "Violence and destruction!"  
But the word of the LORD has brought scorn on me.  
I am mocked all day long.**
- <sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak in his name anymore,"  
then there is a burning fire in my heart,  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary of holding it in.  
I cannot!**
- <sup>10</sup>I hear many whispering,  
"Terror on every side!"  
All my close friends,  
those who are watching for my fall, say,  
"Denounce him! Let's denounce him.  
Perhaps he can be pressured into making a mistake.  
Then we will have the upper hand against him,  
and we will take our revenge on him."**
- <sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior.  
So my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not gain the upper hand.  
They will be put to shame completely,  
because they have not been successful.  
Their eternal disgrace will never be forgotten.**
- <sup>12</sup>LORD of Armies, you test the righteous.  
You see the heart and the mind.  
Let me see your vengeance on them,  
for I have laid out my case before you.**
- <sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD!  
Praise the LORD,  
for he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hand of the wicked.**

**Psalm of the Day: Psalm 91**



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

*Psalm tone*



**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High\*  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.**

**I will say of the LORD,\*  
“He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

***Refrain***

**You will not fear the terror of the night,\*  
nor the arrow that flies by day.**

**If you make the Most High your dwelling,\*  
then no harm will befall you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.**

**For he will command his angels concerning you\*  
to guard you in all your ways;**

**they will lift you up in their hands,\*  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

**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. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. (*2 Corinthians 12:9*)

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 10:5, 21-33

<sup>5</sup>Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them...

<sup>21</sup>“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.

<sup>23</sup>And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup>“Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

<sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

## **HYMN: # 876 “Fight the Good Fight”**

**♪ Fight the good fight with all your might;  
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
your joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God’s good grace;  
lift up your eyes and seek his face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on your guide;  
his boundless mercy will provide.  
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
he changes not, and you are dear.  
Only believe, and you will see  
that Christ is Lord eternally.**

## **SERMON: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

**<sup>6</sup>You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing.**

**<sup>16</sup>At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **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: # 890 “Jerusalem the Golden”**

♪ **Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—  
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.  
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,  
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.**

**They stand, those halls of Zion, all jubilant with song  
and bright with many an angel and all the martyr throng.  
The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene;  
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.**

**There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,  
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.  
And they who with their leader have conquered in the fight  
forever and forever are clad in robes of white.**

**O sweet and blessed country, the home of God’s elect!  
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!  
In mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest;  
you are with God the Father and Spirit ever blest.**

## OFFERING

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

## 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: "Lead On O King Eternal" *(melody of # 450)*

♪ **Lead on, O King eternal,  
the day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
your grace has made us strong;  
and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.**

**Lead on, O King eternal,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace.  
For not with swords loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy  
the heavenly kingdom comes.**

**Lead on, O King eternal,  
we follow, without fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us,  
we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest;  
lead on, O God of might.**

## **WELS CONNECTION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS** for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers in celebration of Scotland's 1st birthday.

**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**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. (Elders)<br/>ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</b>                               |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.<br/>Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.</b> |

