



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**"WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP  
THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME  
IS NOT WORTHY OF ME."**

MATTHEW 10:38



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

### Worship Service

*Sunday, July 2, 2023 10:00 a.m.*

### Fifth Sunday after PENTECOST



**Theme of the day:** We are so blessed to live in this great country. God has blessed our nation throughout its history, and has blessed us with its freedoms. But he gives the greatest freedom, the liberty that lasts forever, only through his Son.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

### 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: # 805 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”**

♪ **Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain  
o’er which our traffic runs amain  
by mountain pass or valley low,  
wherever, Lord, thy people go,  
protect them by thy guarding hand  
from ev’ry peril on the land.**

**O Spirit, whom the Father sent  
to spread abroad the firmament,  
O Wind of heaven, by thy might  
save all who dare the eagle’s flight,  
and keep them by thy watchful care  
from ev’ry peril in the air.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**O Trinity of love and pow’r,  
our people shield in danger’s hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe’er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad praise from air and land and sea.**

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.**

### **PRAYER of the Day**

M: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through 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: 1 Peter 2:11-17**

**<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us.**

**<sup>13</sup>Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the king as the supreme authority <sup>14</sup>or to governors as those who have been sent by him to punish those who do what is wrong and to praise those who do what is right. <sup>15</sup>For this is God's will: that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. <sup>16</sup>Do this as free people, and do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but use it as servants of God. <sup>17</sup>Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**

### **PSALM of the Day: Psalm 33**



as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.      *Refrain*

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

M: Alleluia. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Alleluia. (*1 Timothy 2:4*)

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: Luke 20:20-25**

<sup>20</sup>They watched him carefully and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, so that they could trap Jesus in something he said, and then deliver him up to the power and authority of the governor.

<sup>21</sup>They questioned him, “Teacher, we know that you say and teach what is right and show no partiality to anyone, but you teach the way of God on the basis of the truth. <sup>22</sup>Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

<sup>23</sup>But he was aware of their deceit and said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they answered.

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

**HYMN: # 602 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

**♪ Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
    there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
    as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
    all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

### **SERMON: Psalm 33**

- <sup>1</sup>Shout joyfully to the LORD, you righteous.  
The praise of the upright is beautiful.**
- <sup>2</sup>Thank the LORD with a lyre.  
Make music for him with the ten-stringed harp.**
- <sup>3</sup>Sing to him a new song.  
Play skillfully and shout praises.**
- <sup>4</sup>Yes, the word of the LORD is right,  
and everything he does is trustworthy.**
- <sup>5</sup>He loves righteousness and justice.  
The mercy of the LORD fills the earth.**
- <sup>6</sup>By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.  
By the breath of his mouth he made the whole army of stars.**
- <sup>7</sup>He gathers the water of the sea into a heap.  
He puts the depths into storehouses.**
- <sup>8</sup>Let all the earth fear the LORD.  
Let all the inhabitants of the world revere him.**
- <sup>9</sup>For he said, "Let it be," and it was!  
He gave a command, and there it stood.**
- <sup>10</sup>The LORD wrecks the plan of the nations.  
He hinders the intentions of the peoples.**
- <sup>11</sup>The plan of the LORD stands forever.  
The intentions of his heart stand through all generations.**



- <sup>12</sup>How blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose to be his possession.**
- <sup>13</sup>From heaven the LORD observes.  
He sees all the children of Adam.**
- <sup>14</sup>From his throne room he looks at all the inhabitants of earth.**
- <sup>15</sup>He alone is the one who shapes all their hearts.  
He understands all their deeds.**
- <sup>16</sup>No king is saved by the great size of his army.  
No hero is rescued by his great strength.**
- <sup>17</sup>You cannot rely on a horse to save you.  
Its great strength will not deliver you.**
- <sup>18</sup>Look, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who wait for his mercy.**
- <sup>19</sup>He will deliver their souls from death.  
He keeps them alive in famine.**
- <sup>20</sup>Our souls wait for the LORD.  
He is our help and our shield.**
- <sup>21</sup>Yes, in him our heart rejoices,  
because we trust in his holy name.**
- <sup>22</sup>May your mercy, O LORD, be on us,  
even as we wait confidently for you.**

## **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 vir-  
gin 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 pro-  
ceeds 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 for our Nation**

**M:** Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

**C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.**

**M:** You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

**C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.**

**M:** Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

**C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.**

**M:** Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

**C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.**

**M:** Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect. To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

**C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. 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: # 775 “Before You, Lord, We Bow”

**♪ Before you, Lord we bow, our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below in boundless pow’r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise to you, our King!**

**The nation you have blessed may well your love declare,  
from foes and fears at rest, protected by your care.  
For this bright day for this fair land  
— gifts of your hand — our thanks we pay.**

**May ev’ry mountain height, each vale and forest green,  
shine in your Word’s pure light and its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev’ry tongue be tuned to praise  
and join to raise a grateful song!**

**Earth, hear your maker’s voice, your great Redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone.  
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore  
and bow before the Crucified!**

**And when in pow’r he comes, oh, may our native land  
from all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng, with joy to sing  
to heav’n’s high King, salvation’s song!**

## 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: # 774 "God Bless Our Native Land"

♪ **God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand  
thro' storm and night!  
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,  
do thou our country save by thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise to God above the skies;  
On him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,  
to thee aloud we cry: God save the state!**

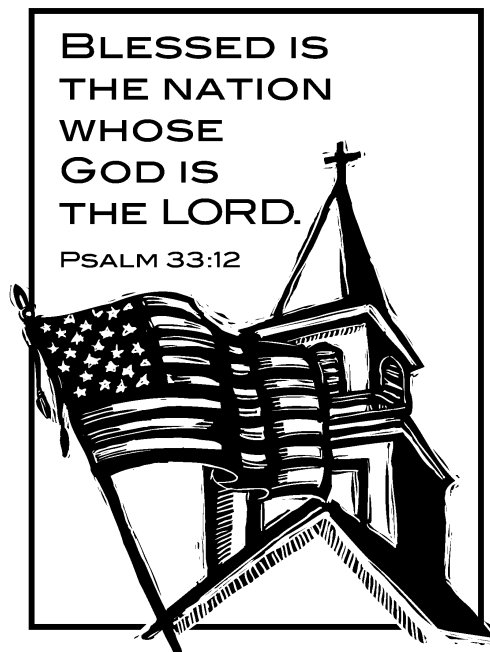
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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**    **NO ESL**  
**Thursday**   **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**  
                  **ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday**     **Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**  
                  **Worship, 10:00 a.m.**  
                  **Fellowship Luncheon and Voters’ Meeting**



# 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.*

