



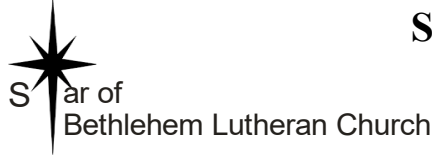
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

*“The Son of
Man will
send out
his angels,
and they will
weed out of
his kingdom
everything
that causes
sin and all
who do evil.”*

Matthew 23:41



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:00 a.m.

The Eighth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Only God can truly judge anyone. And he does. And he will. In the final judgment, he will judge the world with justice, taking to heaven all who believe and condemning forever all who reject.

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: # 873 “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

♪ **Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day unawares o’ertaken;
for the foe, well we know,
is a harvest reaping while the saints are sleeping.**

**Watch against the devil’s snares lest asleep he find you;
for indeed no pains he spares to deceive and blind you.
Satan’s prey oft are they
who secure are sleeping and no watch are keeping.**

**Watch! Let not the wicked world with its lies defeat you
lest with bold deceptions hurled it betray and cheat you.
Watch and see lest there be
faithless friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.**

**Watch against yourself, my soul, lest with grace you trifle;
let not self your thoughts control nor God’s mercy stifle.
Pride and sin lurk within,
all your hopes to shatter; heed not when they flatter.**

Please stand for last verse:

**But while watching also pray to the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, strength and faith increasing,
so that still mind and will
shall unite to serve him and forever love him.**

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, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy 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: Isaiah 44:6-11

⁶This is what the LORD, the King of Israel,
Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says.

I am the first, and I am the last.

Except for me, there is no god.

⁷For who is like me? Let him declare it.

Let him recite in order for me the things that took place
since the time I established an ancient people.

Or let them declare what is yet to come,
and what is going to take place.

⁸Do not tremble, and do not be frightened.

Did I not announce this to you,
and declare it already long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any god except me?

There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other.

⁹All those who form an idol are good for nothing.

All the things which delight them provide no benefit.

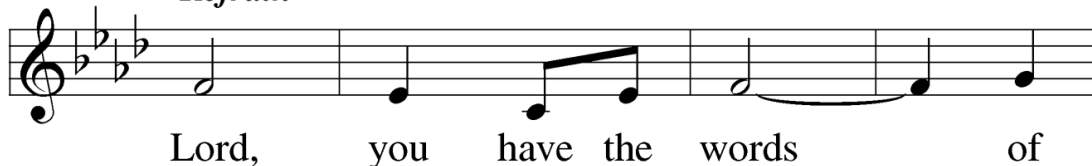
As for their witnesses—they do not see.

They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

¹⁰Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can
provide no profit? ¹¹Look at him! All his associates will be
ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather
themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and
ashamed together.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 19

Refrain



Psalm tone



**The heavens declare the glory of God;*
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

**Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world.**

Refrain

**The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.**

**They are more precious than gold;*
they are sweeter than honey.**

**By them is your servant taught;*
in keeping them there is great reward.**

Refrain

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.**

**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. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways. Alleluia! (*Romans 11:33*)

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: Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸Indeed, God’s wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who try to suppress the truth by unrighteousness. ¹⁹This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. ²⁰In fact, his invisible characteristics—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, ²¹because, even though they knew God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened.

²²Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. ²⁴So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. ²⁵Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

HYMN: # 491 “Come, You Thankful People, Come”

**♪ Come, you thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, shall provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in your garner to abide.
Come with all your angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home.**

SERMON: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ ²⁹‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

³⁶Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered them, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴²The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

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: # 641:1,4,5,7 "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"

**♪ Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
for round us falls the eventide,
nor let your Word, that heav'nly light,
for us be ever veiled in night.**

**Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold,
for we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
O prosper well your Word of grace,
and spread its truth in ev'ry place.**

**O, keep us in your Word, we pray;
the guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease;
give concord, patience, courage, peace.**

**O grant that in your holy Word
we here may live and die, dear Lord;
and when our journey's ending here,
receive us into glory there.**

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: # 803 "Day by Day"

**♪ Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**

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.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday ESL (English as a Second Language), 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
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.



